



No. 65,732

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Heseltine challenged over use of Civil Service

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

MICHAEL HESELTINE will be challenged in the House of Commons today to explain the circumstances in which he ordered senior civil servants to promote Conservative policies.

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, intervened to prevent the Deputy Prime Minister using Whitehall officials to draw up terms of "cheerleaders" to praise the Government's achievements. The Prime Minister had endorsed the plan.

The controversy will dominate questions to Mr Heseltine in the Commons today only hours before David Willetts, the Paymaster General, faces a televised inquisition into allegations that he tried to influence an independent Commons inquiry into the cash-for-questions dispute.

But it was the direct involvement of Mr Heseltine, one of the most skilful political operators at Westminster, in the latest controversy to engulf the Government that dismayed Tory MPs yesterday.

Sir Robin, in a rare rebuke, told Mr Heseltine in August, a month after the project was launched, that it would be "inappropriate" for civil servants to become involved in activities that would promote the Tory Party. It is believed to be the first time he has vetoed a proposal involving the Prime Minister and his deputy.

Mr Heseltine, in a damage-limitation exercise yesterday morning, said that he immediately accepted Sir Robin's advice and that the work had been hived off to ministerial advisers whose appointments are political.

However, a leaked Cabinet Office memorandum, dated August 19, disclosed that it was Mr Heseltine who had initiated the programme to recruit prominent figures to be "vigorous and attractive proponents" of government policies in the run-up to the election. The document was interpreted by Labour and by the First Division Association of senior civil servants as a threat to the Civil Service's prized political neutrality.

Mr Heseltine fiercely denied the charge and said yesterday he was a victim of Labour dirty tricks. He said that as soon as Sir Robin had intervened he had acted. "The moment he did that, I agreed that was the position. That is what has been happening. All of that is quite clear," he said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One* programme.

Asked why the memorandum in question had been passed between civil servants, rather than between the politically appointed advisers who should have handled the work, he replied: "The important thing is to be sure that we don't use civil servants for this purpose."

The interview produced a contemptuous response from John Prescott, Labour deputy leader. He said: "This is a further blatant example of an abuse of government power... a blatant interference in the impartiality of civil servants. It brought Sir Robin to condemn what they proposed to do." Mr Prescott, referring to Mr Willetts's

appearance before the select committee, said: "This is a Government more interested in the party interest than the national interest: they will use anybody to achieve that."

Derek Foster, Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said: "The public will rightly ask whether some people will be rewarded by the Government in the form of contracts if they speak up praising 'Tory policy.' He added: "Was there an implicit threat that they would be discriminated against if they did not come out on side for the Government?"

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, will also be under attack for embarking today on a business tour in Tory marginal seats which was paid for and organised by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was under fire from Labour and Tory MPs for using civil servants to write fictional "good news" stories about the health service in a *White Paper*, which is to be published on Wednesday.

Sir Robin has defended the neutrality and impartiality of civil servants assiduously. In recent weeks he has accepted the view of Scottish Office civil servants who declined to use the term "tartan tax" to damage Labour's devolution plans. He also told civil servants to take care in the use of the word "opportunity" in government statements after concern expressed by some officials that this was too close to the Conservative Party slogan used at the party conference.

The issue of civil servants being politicised has extra sensitivity because of the closeness of the general election and the likelihood of a change of government.

The leak of the memorandum came only days after Sir Robin Butler had told Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, General Secretary of the Association of First Division civil servants, Lady Symons, had learnt of the original proposal — made on July 24 — in August, which was the month it was announced that she was to become a Labour working peer. She denied that she was part of a Labour plot to discredit the Government.



Elegant misses are a hit with Shephard

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

TEACHERS at an undistinguished Norwich comprehensive found themselves promoted as the fashion models for their profession yesterday after winning a glowing dress-sense testimonial from the Education Secretary.

Gillian Shephard singled them out in a television interview on the Education Bill. She recalled the female members "looking as

though they had stepped out of the pages of *Vogue*" when she visited Earlham School in the summer.

Mrs Shephard cited the elegant women as an example to a profession that, she said, sometimes underestimated its importance as role models. "I thought what an inspiration they must be to their pupils."

Earlham attracted less welcome headlines little more than a month ago when a group of girls were expelled after a younger girl was

beaten unconscious on her first day at school. In 1994 12 per cent of its 15-year-olds gained five or more higher grade GCSE passes. Last year the figure fell to eight.

Mrs Shephard said later that all the staff had been smartly dressed but that the women had made a particular impression.

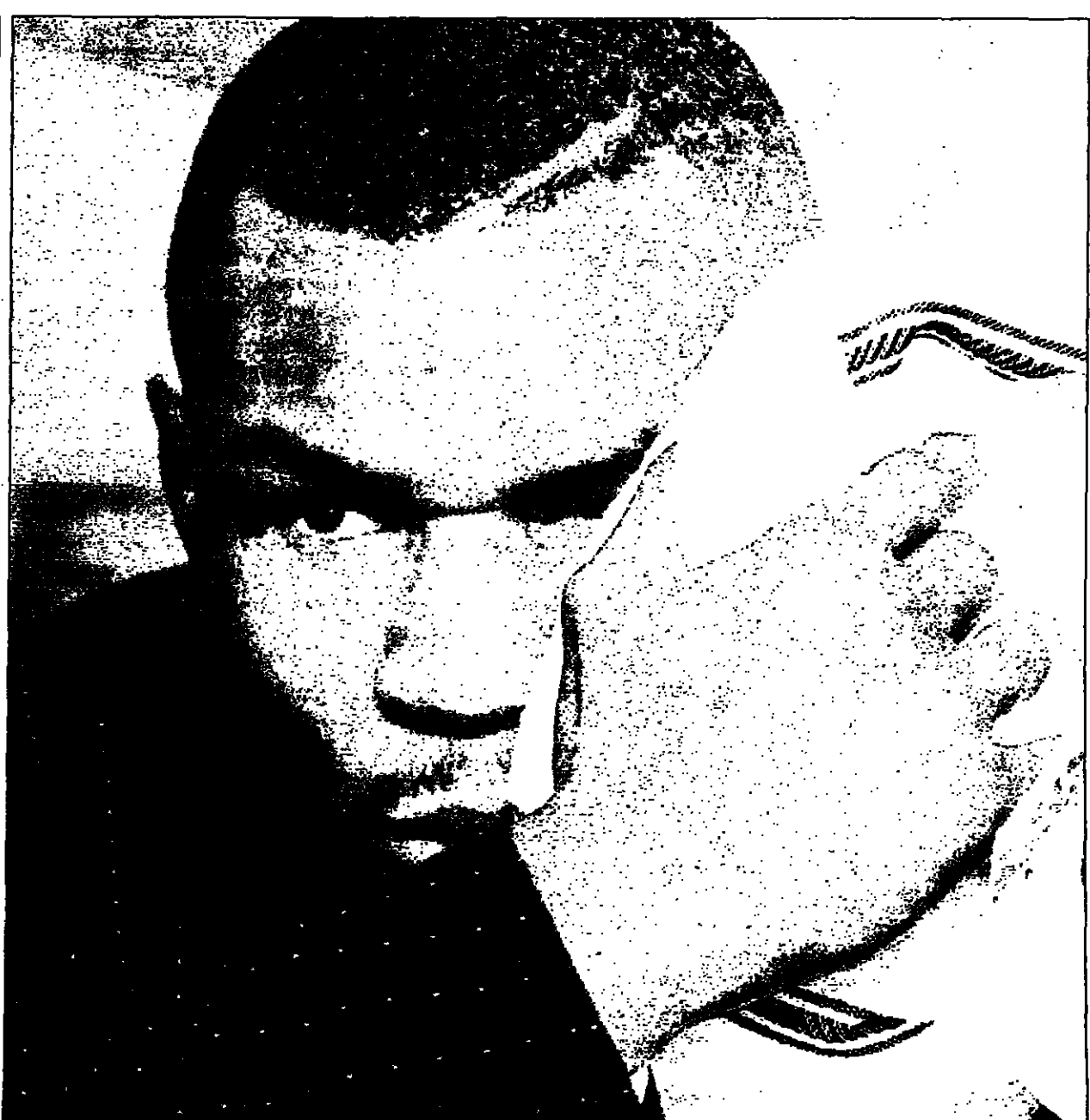
The exchange, during BBC's *On the Record* programme, may have come as a relief not only to Britain's teachers, still smarting from allegations of scruffiness, but

also to the world's best-known fashion magazine. *Vogue* has been at the centre of a row over its use of waif-like models, being accused of encouraging slimming to dangerous levels among young girls.

David Shaw, the Tory MP for Dover, is planning an amendment to the Education Bill requiring governors to lay down rules on what teachers wear. Each school

Continued on page 2, col 3

Leading article, page 21



Tyson clutches a towel to his cut eye after the fight, won by Evander Holyfield in one of boxing's greatest upsets

'Old man' gives Tyson a beating

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

EVANDER HOLYFIELD, the supposedly feeble old man of heavyweight boxing, scored one of the great upsets of ring history when — with a little help from the Almighty — he thrashed Mike Tyson to win the world title. Holyfield,

37, defeated the much-feared Tyson with ease, delivering a medley of pummeling-punches and ear-splitting crunching blows before the fight in Las Vegas was stopped in the eleventh round.

The loser was said to be incoherent immediately after the fight, as were the wide-shouldered, sun-bespattered

tough guys in his entourage who had come to regard their man as unbeatable. They had said that Holyfield would leave the ring "in a box, man".

Bookmakers also took some heavy blows. Holyfield was originally 25-1 underdog for the fight, but wads of clever money dropped on him not long before the opening

bell rang. The odds fell to 6-1, but some punters had a highly profitable weekend. Holyfield had entered the fight with a failing reputation and was regarded by the Tyson camp as just another

Continued on page 4, col 4

Leading article, page 21

Sport, pages 25, 27

SFO shares probe into Eurotunnel

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY
AND ROBERT MILLER

TEN City banks and stockbrokers will be asked to supply secret documents this week after the Serious Fraud Office joined a French police investigation into allegations of insider dealing in shares in Eurotunnel, operator of the Channel Tunnel.

The intervention of the Serious Fraud Office comes at the request of French authorities investigating alleged "market manipulation" around dealings in Eurotunnel shares. Officers from the French fraud squad visited London at the end of last week to put a case for investigations in London.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has approved the

Continued on page 2, col 7

British troops for Zaire

The Cabinet is expected to give approval on Thursday to British military involvement in an international humanitarian mission in Zaire.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said on BBC television that he expected authorisation for an international force to be agreed by the weekend amid reports that more than one million refugees from Rwanda face starvation. Page 11

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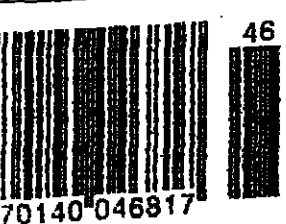
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Bingham warns law clash will dominate election

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

Lord Chief Justice will lead opposition to proposals

THE Lord Chief Justice warned yesterday that a clash between the judiciary and Government over sentencing proposals will dominate the run-up to the general election.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill indicated in Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, that his plans for automatic life terms and US style minimum sentences were a recipe for "tensions" and "unhappiness and challenge" in the country's prisons. He gave notice that he

will lead judicial opposition to the proposals in the Lords and warned that the Government's attempt to meet judges' concern that the plan will fetter their discretion did not "meet the problem at all".

Lord Bingham's remarks will also serve as a marker to Labour — which has adopted a neutral stance over the bill — that a future Labour Government would face the same judicial opposition. With Lab-

our abstaining on the Government's flagship law and order bill, Lord Bingham and his senior colleagues on the bench are effectively leading the opposition to the sentencing measures.

Lord Bingham made his unhappiness with the measure known when he appeared on BBC's Breakfast with Frost programme. An array of senior present and former judges as well as other legal

figures are expected to try to block the Crime Bill unless changes are made which give judges greater sentencing freedom.

Mr Howard's Crime Bill requires judges to impose minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers unless there are "exceptional circumstances" — a clause specifically pressed for by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor. Lord Bingham agreed on the Frost programme yesterday that this let-out phrase did not "do the business." He said: "I don't feel this meets the problem at all."

Courts had interpreted "exceptional circumstances" very narrowly, to exclude cases where defendants had "psychiatric problems, financial apressures, family difficulties, threats of suicide".

"In the run-of-the-mill cases,

these kind of explanations are coming up all the time and so a judge is going to have, if he's true to the intention of Parliament, to put his hand on his heart and say, "is this exceptional?" And usually it won't be."

Lord Bingham made clear that judges wanted the freedom not to pass a mandatory sentence in any case where "he considered in all the circumstances it would be unjust to

do so", giving reasons in open court.

That would enable judges "to give effect to his sense of what the justice of the case demanded and that's what he's there for, he's a professional paid to be expert in these matters".

In a second attack on the bill, Lord Bingham went on to echo the warning of the Parole Board that the abolition of the present parole system could

cause tensions in prisons. The present system, in which the Parole Board made the decision as to when a long-term prisoner should be released worked well, Lord Bingham said.

Instead, the bill proposed a system in which a "prison officer on the landing where the prisoner is" would be deciding whether he should have three days a month because he had been cooperative or an extra three days because he was very cooperative. That was "an extremely difficult judgement to make."

Brown says EU social costs would be vetoed

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN will today promise business that a Labour government would veto any moves by the European Union to force Britain to accept European social security legislation and workers on company boards.

In Labour's clearest attempt so far to woo industry, the Shadow Chancellor will tell the Confederation of British Industry conference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, that Labour would block any new regulations brought forward under the social chapter that are seen to burden business.

He will say that Labour would only allow proposals that it considers would boost productivity and employment. Labour would also reject any attempt to weaken the veto within the social chapter in the fields of social security and "co-determination within the boardroom".

This means that Labour would block any moves to force Britain to accept plans for common benefit levels across Europe, including a minimum unemployment benefit figure and social security taxes. Business leaders fear that if Britain signs up to the social chapter, as Mr Brown will reaffirm today, a Labour government would do, other unwanted European so-

cial legislation could creep in which would be damaging to their interests.

Mr Brown's reassurance to business comes the day before the European Court of Justice is expected to rule that the directive imposing a maximum 48hr working week across Europe should apply to Britain.

The Shadow Chancellor is to tell CBI delegates that Labour should now be seen as pro-business. He will say: "We must never return to a situation here in Britain where unlike in America and most of Europe, one party is seen as pro-business and the other is seen as anti-business."

He is planning to reject the "old dogmatic battles" between regulation and deregulation and add that Britain has to increase productivity and employment through new partnerships for investment in industry skills and new technologies. He will reiterate Labour's commitment to sign the social chapter "because we believe that there is a social dimension to the single market and because we believe that an empty chair is not in Britain's interests". However, Labour will "not countenance" any plans that burden business.

Mr Brown will also set out Labour's objectives of low inflation, sound public finances and tough fiscal rules. As one of the strongest pro-Europeans in the Shadow Cabinet, he will repeat that Labour favours a single currency in principle but only if the right economic conditions can be achieved. He will say that the options of membership should be kept open.

John Major will tomorrow attack the decision on the 48hr week and say that he will block any progress at the Dublin summit.



Brown: addresses CBI in Harrogate today

Business, page 48

FREE RETURN TICKET ON EUROSTAR



See page 6 for further details



An animated Gillian Shephard during her interview for BBC Television's On The Record programme yesterday

Continued from page 1
would set its own code, but the aim would be to outlaw "sloppy" dress, including jeans, and stop male teachers wearing earrings. Mrs Shephard said the whole country

would welcome a smart appearance by teachers. But there should be no need for a national initiative.

The Education and Employment Secretary defended John Major's decision to grant backbench MPs a

free vote on the reintroduction of corporal punishment, while insisting that ministers support continued abolition. She said the Government's position had not changed.

Mrs Shephard, who is against

banning the cane in state schools, said its reintroduction would have been considered if teachers' organisations had requested it to be.

Leading article, page 21

Teachers may shun tests for five-year-olds

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A RERUN of the dispute which plagued the introduction of classroom tests for seven and 11-year-olds is threatening the Government's plans for a national system of "baseline assessment" at the age of five.

Nursery groups are pressing for the tests, which are being tried in 360 schools, to be as wide-ranging as possible to give teachers a clear picture of children's progress before they start school. But the teachers' union which led the boycott of national curriculum tests is gearing up for similar

action if its members consider the new format too time-consuming.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, told his members in the latest edition of the union newspaper, *Career Teacher*: "Inevitably, there will be workload implications, and NASUWT will be offering the appropriate support to those members who refuse the additional work. This blatant attempt to catch general election votes will depress and demoralise teachers and cost a small fortune."

Consultation by the School

Curriculum and Assessment Authority, which finished on Friday, showed a clear majority of teachers favouring the most basic of three models for the assessment. Half-hour tests would concentrate almost exclusively on initial literacy and numeracy, providing a baseline against which the value added by schools can be measured.

But Susan Hay, who chairs the National Childcare Trust, said nursery groups feared that tests of this type would narrow the focus of pre-school education because parents would place such emphasis on the results. "We don't want the other valuable activities which

go on in nurseries to be squeezed out, so the assessment must be broader."

Mrs Hay, whose own Nurseryworks group passes on a detailed account of its children's attainment to schools, has been pressing the SCAA to recommend that children are assessed twice when they system is introduced nationally in 1998. As well as testing basic literacy and numeracy, an assessment would gauge the wider skills that children have acquired before starting school.

A SCAA spokesman said the authority was anxious to make the tests as concise as possible, although they would almost

certainly cover communication skills as well as literacy and numeracy. More than half of all five-year-olds are given some form of assessment already, and local schemes would be accredited as long as they conformed with requirements.

More than 2,500 schools responded to the SCAA's appeal for views on the three models. There was little favour either for the option of an open-ended assessment by teachers, or for the option of a more complex test based on the broad range of skills the authority hopes to see covered in pre-school classes.

Former ministers in caning revolt

Two former Tory education ministers are among a group of 30 MPs sponsoring an amendment today on the restoration of corporal punishment in schools. But Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, who is a personal advocate of the cane, will oppose the rebels today during a debate on the Education Bill. Mrs Shephard made clear yesterday on BBC's *On the Record* that she would vote against her beliefs.

Raine divorces

The marriage of the former Countess Spencer to a French aristocrat has been dissolved by a French divorce court. Three years after they were married in London, Raine — the former stepmother of Diana, Princess of Wales — and Count Jean-François Tineton de Chambrun have been granted a divorce in Grasse in the south of France.

Biggest aquarium

London Zoo is planning a £100 million aquarium, the world's largest, scheduled to open in 2001. It will be in the Albert Dock, in east London, surrounded by water on three sides. Inside the building there will be four tanks the size of Olympic swimming pools, each holding up to 1.1 million gallons of water, a river, and waterfalls.

Proops dies
Marjorie Proops, the doyenne of agony aunts, died last night at London's Cromwell Hospital. Her age was a mystery, but she was thought to be in her late 70s or early 80s. David Montgomery, chief executive of the Mirror Group, said: "I first met Marjorie when I was a young sub-editor and she left me in no doubt who was boss."

Blair would split civil service roles

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

A FUTURE Labour Government would split the post of Cabinet Secretary and head of the Home Civil Service. Tony Blair favours a Cabinet Secretary who can oversee all Government business and who will take on a more strategic role in driving Whitehall departments to implement the legislative programme.

The head of the home civil service could also become a powerful new post in combination with a beefed-up Cabinet Office to drive forward Labour's proposed changes to the constitution. The notion has captured the interest of senior Labour figures, who believe such a move would also make it easier to appoint Sir John

Kerr, the present British Ambassador in Washington, to the key post as Cabinet Secretary.

It is understood that Sir John, 54, has been involved in early discussions about the job. But as a Foreign Office man, it may be deemed inappropriate for him to take on the role as head of the home civil service. Sir John Kerr is unusual in a diplomat in that he enjoys the cut and thrust of party politics in Government and is known as a keen "fixer". He has also worked in a senior post at the Treasury, and was so valued that he was invited by Sir Geoffrey Howe, when he was Chancellor, to stay on and become his principal private secretary.

Another plus for Sir John is that he is an expert on European issues and during his

five-year posting to Brussels as Ambassador and the UK Permanent Representative he drove through the Maastricht Treaty for the Prime Minister and was a familiar presence at Downing Street.

Mr Blair got to know him well during his trip to Washington in May, and he is also admired by Jonathan Powell, another former diplomat who is Mr Blair's chief of staff.

But Mr Blair and his senior colleagues want Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary who is also head of the home civil service, to marshal the transition period for Whitehall to adapt to a new Labour intake. It is unlikely, therefore, that the change would take place in the first few months of a Labour administration.

Tunnel shares

Continued from page 1
SFO involvement and the Metropolitan Police have also been kept abreast of developments.

The Serious Fraud Office investigation is to be headed by Chris Dickson, senior assistant director, although it is understood that no office raids are planned at this stage of the inquiry.

James O'Donoghue, a spokesman for the SFO, said that the investigation was concentrated on events on the French stock market and there were no grounds for a domestic inquiry. The majority of

Eurotunnel share dealings have been conducted in France, although the company is quoted on both the London and Paris Stock Exchanges, and most shareholders are French.

The French inquiry is believed to centre around allegations that vital commercial information about the restructuring of the debt-burdened tunnel operator had been leaked into the market. The share deals date back to 1994, the year before the tunnel opened and shortly before Eurotunnel announced it was trying to re-arrange its debt.

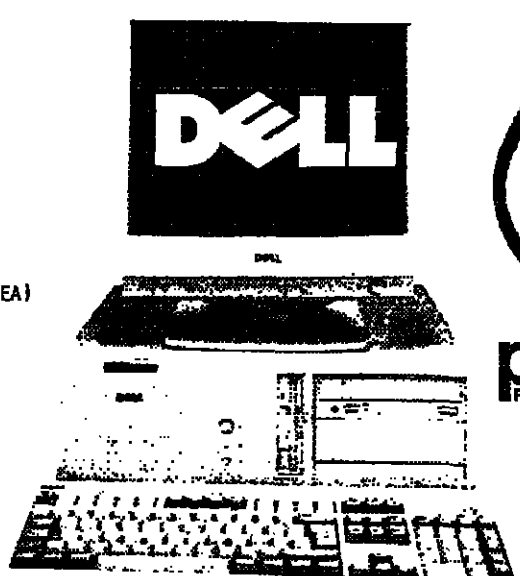
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'Now that we have shops trading on Sundays, that is when we observe the silence'

Stores are divided on when to fall silent

By JOANNA BALE

AN ESTIMATED two thirds of the British population will observe today's two minutes' silence to remember the nation's war dead, although some big employers have declined to take part.

Safeway, Boots, Somerfield, Hanson and John Lewis are among the firms which have failed to respond to a direct appeal by the Royal British Legion. John Lewis, which owns Waitrose, called on the Government yesterday to give a clear lead in future on which day to observe a silence. Like many other retailers, it prefers to observe the silence on Remembrance Sunday, when fewer stores are open and those that do trade are less busy.

The Royal British Legion has been campaigning to renew the widespread observance once given to Armistice Day, to mark the moment when the guns stopped at the end of the First World War at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

Mildred Pelling, the poppy appeal organiser for Hastings and St Leonards in East Sussex, said: "It is very disappointing. The stores that choose Sunday think they will lose less money, but two minutes is not much to give to those who gave their lives."

The legion's campaign to renew the once-widespread observance of Armistice Day began last year when it fell on a Saturday, and an estimated 27 million took part. It believes that two thirds of the population - about 38 million - will take part this year. Many of the biggest employers, including Guinness, Tarmac, PowerGen, Cadbury Schweppes, British Airways and Glaxo Wellcome have entered into the spirit of the revival, along with The Times. A spokesman

for John Lewis said: "We have great sympathy with the RBL's wish to raise the profile of Armistice Day. We believe that the nationally designated time for remembrance is the nearest Sunday and we do not want to detract from that well-established tradition."

"Now that we have some stores trading on Sundays, our position is that we will observe the two minutes' silence on Remembrance Sunday. On national matters such as this we believe it is for the Government to give a clear lead."

Safeway said it also preferred to hold the silence on Remembrance Sunday. A spokesman said: "We believe more customers in nearly 500 stores will join us on a Sunday."

Boots is leaving the matter to the discretion of store managers.

Charles Lewis, controller of communications at the British Legion, said: "We believe even more people will participate this year because it falls on a Monday, and so many firms, schools and colleges have agreed to observe it. We know it will never take the place of the Remembrance Day ceremony in Whitehall. We are just calling for recognition of Armistice Day."

British Airways rescheduled its morning Concorde flight from Heathrow to New York yesterday so as not to disturb Remembrance Day services around the country. The supersonic BA 001 flight would normally have left Heathrow at 10.30am but, because of the two minutes' silence at 11am, the airline rescheduled its take-off to 11.15am.

Kenneth Baker, page 15
William Rees-Mogg, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Moment of remembrance: The Queen laying her wreath at the Cenotaph yesterday, watched by politicians including Paddy Ashdown, Tony Blair and John Major

Old wartime memories renewed by present sacrifices

■ John Young finds the Whitehall Cenotaph ceremony has lost none of its splendour nor capacity to touch hearts

ON A raw, grey, damp November morning, the nation again gathered yesterday to pay tribute to its war dead. Seventy-seven years since the first wreaths were laid on the Cenotaph in Whitehall, the ceremony has lost none of its solemn splendour nor its capacity to touch hearts.

Age may have withered and the years condemned all but a handful of those who survived the horrors of 1914-18, but a host of veterans of later conflicts, as recent as the Gulf War and Bosnia, gathered in the drizzle by the statues of the admirals and generals who led them and their forefathers into battle.

Relentlessly, each year marks another milestone.

Last year Britain celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War: this year it has been reminded of the massacre of the Somme, the biggest disaster in British military history, just 80 years ago. Next year it will be time to recall Passchendaele, the year after that the Armistice itself; in 1999 it will be 60 years since Hitler marched into Poland and condemned a weary world to six more years of torment.

But the litany does not stale.

Yesterday we remembered the fallen as, if the number of young faces in the crowd were an indication, generations will continue to do. Young men and women, blinded or in wheelchairs in what should be the prime of life, reminded us that freedom continues to exact a bitter price.

As the rain eased, guards of honour took up station, including detachments from the RAF, the Royal Marines, the Royal Navy, the Household Cavalry and Her Majesty's

Coastguard. The massed bands of the Brigade of Guards, in their sombre grey winter greatcoats, played the familiar tunes: *Rule Britannia*, *Hearts of Oak*, *The Minstrel Boy* and *Men of Harlech*. The pipes of the Scots Guards intervened with the haunting *Skye Boat Song*.

To the accompaniment of Elgar's sonorous *Nimrod*, the choir of the Chapel Royal led the procession of clergy preceding the Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres. Through the doors of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office came the politicians: John Major, Tony Blair, Paddy Ashdown, and David Trimble; three former prime ministers, Baroness Thatcher,

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff and Sir Edward Heath; and members of the Cabinet. They were followed by 43 Commonwealth high commissioners and the heads of the Armed Services.

Finally they were joined by the Queen and the Dukes of Edinburgh, York and Kent. The Princess Royal and her husband Captain Timothy Laurence, Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy watched from a balcony. Two notable absentees were Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who is suffering from a chill, and the Prince of Wales, who is on a nine-day tour of former Soviet states in central Asia.

As Big Ben boomed the first

stroke of 11, a single volley of gunfire signalled the two minutes' silence, memories etched in the faces of the old soldiers, sailors and airmen as they recalled past times and past friendships. A Royal Marine trumpeter sounded the Last Post and the Queen laid the first wreath, followed by her husband and son.

A short service conducted by the bishop included prayers, the hymn *O God Our Help In Ages Past*, Reveille and the National Anthem. To the accompaniment of Jeremiah Clarke's *Trumpet Voluntary*, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, President of the Royal British Legion, laid the first of a hundred more wreaths.



Sgt Noble was remembered at a roadside service in Hove yesterday

Human remains found in crashed Hurricane

By TIM JONES

AFTER the wreckage of a Battle of Britain fighter plane was found beneath the pavement of a seaside town, with human remains inside, a grieving relative of the young pilot said yesterday she could not rest until his grave was dug up to reveal whether it contains his remains.

Gwendoline Noble, 80, thought that after being shot down in a dogfight 56 years ago the remains of her cousin, Sgt Dennis Noble, 20, had been recovered and laid to rest in his home town of Retford, Nottinghamshire, and for years has been ensuring his grave is well kept.

But she was horrified to learn that in the remains of his Hurricane, found buried 15ft beneath a pavement at



Hove aviation archaeologists have discovered a skeleton clad in RAF flying jacket. Yesterday, a service of remembrance was held at the place in Hove where the remains of Sgt Noble were found. A parachute was laid over the spot and local people marked it with flowers.

Mrs Noble said: "It is turns out that his body is not in the grave but is in the aeroplane. We will want a second funeral with full military honours."

"This has been terribly upsetting for me and other members of the family. I won't be at peace until there has been inquiry. I must know whether we have been deceived by the military authorities."

"Sadly, that must involve digging up the grave to see exactly who or what is buried

there. We must find out who is in that grave. It may be empty, or it may be that just a part of him lies there."

Mrs Noble added: "There has always been a family myth that there were stones in the coffin and that when they buried him it was tilting to one side. If the grave is empty then it will be a scandal and raise the question of how many other families were misled."

Keith Arnold, the archaeologist leading the dig, said: "I am shocked and stunned the body was still there."

Sgt Noble died on August 30, 1940, when his plane was shot down by a Messerschmitt 109. A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said he could not comment as the matter was in the hands of the Sussex coroner.

Pair steal poppy cash from widow

A 75-year-old widow was recovering today after being robbed as she cycled home after collecting money for the Royal British Legion poppy appeal.

Cynthia Shoosmith was cycling in Whitstable, Kent, when a car pulled up and two men got out. They pushed her off her bicycle, grabbed her collection boxes and drove off. The men, aged between 20 and 30, got away with about £100, according to Kent police.

Minister stabbed at cenotaph

A church minister was slashed across the face with a knife during an open-air Remembrance Day service in a Highland village. The Rev John MacPherson, 41, needed 16 stitches after the attack at the cenotaph in Scourie, West Sutherland, witnessed by about 40 worshippers. Police later arrested a man.

Memorial for VC winner

Northern Ireland's only recipient of the Victoria Cross in the Second World War is to have a permanent memorial more than 50 years after his bravery in the Far East. Supporters of James Magennis, who died in 1986, said he had been largely ignored by Belfast council because he was a Roman Catholic.

Carrier crew recalls Invincible past

FROM MICHAEL EVANS
ON HMS INVINCIBLE IN THE GULF

AS THE sun set in the Gulf and two tugboats, one male, one female, played *The Last Post*, it was a poignant reminder that sailors have died for many different causes in these waters.

It was also a moment for the 1,100 men and women of the Royal Navy's *grande dame* of aircraft carriers to reflect on the grim fate of those who served on a previous *Invincible*, which was mortally hit in the Battle of Jutland 80 years ago and sank within 15 minutes, with the loss of nearly all the ship's complement. There were only six survivors.

Many of those serving on today's *Invincible* have their own memories of war. Rear-Admiral Alan West, command-

er of the Royal Navy Task Group, headed by *HMS Invincible*, which is now deployed for an operational exercise inside the narrow Gulf waterway, was commanding officer of *HMS Ardent* in the South Atlantic in 1982 when it was struck by Argentine bombs and sank with the loss of 22 lives.

Others on board are too young to have tasted the fear of battle, such as Sarah Gill, 20, one of 110 Wrens on the carrier who represent the changing face of today's Royal Navy. Admiral West and the commanding officer of *HMS Invincible*, Captain Roy Clare, are both convinced that the women on board would stand up to the ultimate test of war.

The Remembrance Service on *HMS Invincible* was held on Saturday because yesterday the ship's crew was fully

engaged in an exercise with the US Navy which was intended to send a different sort of reminder to the regimes in Iraq and Iran that the West's two greatest navies have the capability and flexibility to operate close to their territories.

Although a Royal Navy carrier paid a port visit to Dubai in 1992, this is the first time that a British carrier group has taken part in operational training inside the Gulf since 1961.

Later this week *HMS Invincible*, a 25,000-tonne carrier, equipped with six FA2 Sea Harriers, new missiles and ten Sea King helicopters, will sail up to Kuwait to demonstrate Britain's continuing commitment, with her allies, to deter any further aggression in this region.

Photograph, page 24

The Virgin Personal Pension, as inspired by Andy Fairweather Low.

With many pension companies, you are expected to decide today what you will be doing and how you will be living for the next thirty years.

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Oilman in jet crash was flying home to propose marriage

By A Staff Reporter

THE girlfriend of a British oilman killed when a passenger jet crashed in a Nigerian jungle said yesterday that he had been on his way home to propose formally to her.

Julie Godfrey said that Stephen Shuckford had e-mailed a proposal shortly before stepping aboard the Boeing 727. "I replied that he should go down on one knee and do it properly — which basically meant 'Yes', I can't believe he's dead. I'm still waiting for him to walk through the door."

Mr Shuckford, 32, who lived with Ms Godfrey, 30, at Gorleston, Norfolk, was the first Briton known to have been on the airliner which crashed on Thursday, 25 miles northeast Lagos, killing all 143 people on board. Up to eight more Britons are thought to have been on the flight. Ms

Godfrey, a finance officer at the University of East Anglia, said: "He's one of those people who, if he got out of the plane but could go back and get somebody else out, he would. He wouldn't think about himself."

"He had worked all over the world. I've known him only four months, but it's a lifetime. He swept me off my feet. He was my soulmate."

"There's no way he wouldn't have been on the plane; he wanted to come home so desperately. I'm still waiting for him to come home and whisk me away to a desert island and marry me."

"It is confirmed that he's on the plane, but I won't believe it until they show me something, until they bring his body home."

Ms Godfrey, who is dis-

voiced, said that Mr Shuckford was estranged from his wife, with whom he had a two-year-old child son, Ryan, and that a divorce was pending. He also had a daughter, Carly, aged seven, by another woman.

The oilfield services company Schlumberger Wireline and Testing, for whom Mr Shuckford worked as a well-testing technician, confirmed that he was on the aircraft. Another Briton believed to have been a passenger was named last night as John Ingham, 49, from Shrewsbury. He was married with two children.

The Aviation Development Company, the aircraft operator, has angered relatives by not releasing the passenger list, saying it had given it to the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria.

A spokesman for the British High Commission said: "Until we are able to identify people from the manifest to make sure they actually were travelling, we cannot release the names. From what they tell us, it is a very desolate scene, a scene of devastation."

The British had provided two four-wheel-drive vehicles to assist the authorities, and Shell had supplied helicopters. According to witnesses, villagers were using canoes to recover bodies from a lagoon where the plane crashed.



E-mail love: Stephen Shuckford and Julie Godfrey



A jubilant Evander Holyfield celebrates with his wife Janice after the fight. He said belief in Jesus helped him

'Old man' beats Tyson

Continued from page 1

lump of old, cold meat to feed to their shark. Afterwards, the softly-spoken new champion, wearing a "Jesus is Lord" baseball cap, offered an explanation for his unexpected win: "I was washed up with everybody but I wasn't washed up with God. I told you, don't doubt Jesus."

He also had the support of most of the capacity crowd of 16,325, who chanted his name as victory became more than the distant possibility it was when the fighters first swag-

gered into the ring. Holyfield arrived in a gown inscribed "Phil IV, 13", referring to a passage which reads: "I can do all things through Jesus, which strengthens me." No wonder his seconds stress the first syllable of his surname.

Holyfield, from Atlanta, becomes the only heavyweight other than Muhammad Ali to win the title three times. Tyson's confidence was shattered in the sixth round when

Holyfield knocked him down and bloodied his face. The punch landed, symbolically, on his heart.

Tyson's feared left hook seemed to have been left in the gymnasium, or perhaps one of the flash hotel rooms or "lap-dancing" Manhattan bars he has tended to frequent since he returned to the ring after his spell in prison last March. The "Baddest Man on the Planet" fought the bout at

221b (15th 12b), the heaviest he has ever been.

Tyson himself took his loss well: "I am not a guy who makes excuses. He fought a good fight and I look forward to a rematch," he said. Looking across to his vanquisher, he offered thanks for the contest, adding: "I have a lot of respect for you."

Tyson was paid \$30 million (£18.2 million) for the contest, while Holyfield went home with a cheque for \$11 million (£6.7 million) tucked into the champion's belt.

Detectives fight move back to the beat

Hundreds of Scotland Yard detectives are fighting moves to return them to the beat. The Metropolitan Police want officers to move back to uniformed duties for two years after between seven and 15 years in a specialist job, to give others a chance of wider experience. The proposals would affect up to 4,000 detectives and more than 1,500 officers in the firearms unit, royal and diplomatic protection, traffic and dog handling teams. Senior officers have complained privately that the plans could endanger highly trained teams and disrupt CID work.

Air crew hurt

Seventeen members of a British Airways crew were injured when their bus from Lusaka airport to their hotel was stoned as it passed through a student riot near the University of Zambia, the Foreign Office confirmed.

Bejerman honour

A small stone tablet commemorating the life and work of Sir John Bejerman, the Post Laureate who died in 1984, was dedicated last night at Westminster Abbey, on a pillar in the south transept in Poet's Corner.

Vows renewed

Chris Wardman, 31, and his wife, Mandy, 29, repeated their marriage vows of 11 years ago in a church at Guiseley, west Yorkshire, in the hope that it will help to rebuild the memory he lost in a car crash eight months ago.

Unsound case

A retrial has been ordered of a man convicted at Cardiff of attacking a police officer. The Court of Appeal ruled that because of a fault in the court tape-recorder, it could not be proved that the judge had made a proper summing-up.

Farmer crushed

A farmer found dead by his father near Ponsanooth, Cornwall, is believed to have been crushed when bulls pushed him against a shed wall. Colin Burley, aged 35, was divorced with three children.

Fountain writ

A welder has issued a writ demanding that a metal fountain unveiled by the Queen in Stratford-upon-Avon on Friday be dismantled. He claims he contributed ideas to the design, but the plaque names only the sculptress.

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Treatment to put the ostracised in good odour

Dr Thomas Stuttford

TWICE in the past few weeks there have been reports of men being ostracised because of their smell.

At the March Conservative Club in Cambridgeshire, the committee suspended a member for six months and expressed the wish that during this time he should have treatment for his feet, which smelt so badly that even when he was wearing clean socks, other members could not enjoy their drinks.

The problem of smelly feet occurs when acid forms as a result of dead skin being broken down by bacteria. When the feet are sweaty, the bacteria have a field day. The first line of treatment is to reduce foot dampness by wearing socks made of 60 or 70 per cent wool combined with 40 or 30 per cent man-made fibre.

The nature of the weave is important: it has to be close. Cotton socks fail to mop up the sweat and all-wool socks become matted and clammy. If necessary, a second pair of the correct socks worn over the first provides additional absorption.

If using medicated soaps, pumicing the dead skin of the sole of the foot and investing in best-quality socks do not cure the problem, the March Conservative should also wear all-leather shoes rather than moulded plastic with rubber soles.

A more serious problem has been reported this week in *The Lancet*. A Cardiff man pricked his hand with a chicken bone while working in a meat-processing factory. The hand became infected with *Clostridium perfringens* and started to smell. Soon the arm was smelly as well, and then the skin of the whole body. The smell is so intense that the patient has had to stop work, and his family find it difficult to be in the same room with him. Even specially absorbent clothing will not contain the odour.

Clostridium perfringens, previously known as *Clostridium welchii*, was the cause of the notorious gas gangrene which infected wounded soldiers in the trenches during the First World War. It is still important on the home front, where it is the third most common cause of food poisoning.

The strain of organism affecting the Cardiff man has been isolated and in the laboratory it is sensitive to antibiotics. Unfortunately, although the initial wound has been cured, enough of the organism survives on the skin

to make the man's body reek like rotting flesh. The patient's immune system seems to have reached a state of equilibrium with the *Clostridium* and, despite five years' study by local micro-biologists and the prescription of numerous antibiotics, nothing can rid the man of the organism or the odour.

The doctors have said that it is unusual to get a widespread skin infection with *Clostridium*. They have no intention of abandoning their research for treatment.

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3424 11/11/96

Faith in horoscopes is a sign of moral decay, say churches

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE breakdown of family life and traditional moral values in Britain are linked to the widespread decline in church-going and orthodox belief, Church leaders claim today. It could be a sign that society is on the verge of disintegration, they say.

Even practising Christians hold unorthodox, New Age-style beliefs, further evidence that society is in danger of losing touch with its Judeo-Christian roots, according to the report on the "search for faith". While most people still have spiritual beliefs, Britain is witnessing the upsurge of a form of "folk religion", epitomised by Mystic Meg and horoscopes.

Many of these New-Age style beliefs have a Christian basis, but this could soon disappear because so few people go to church or have contact with orthodox Christianity, says the report, which will be debated by the Church

of England General Synod next year. The Bishop of Rochester, the Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali, chairman of the advisory group which produced it, said yesterday: "Civilisations have broken up in the past and we cannot be complacent that ours will not." He said the report was a challenge to the Churches to make sure that the barriers separating them from the community were lowered.

The group, which included representatives from all the mainstream Churches, consulted Christian and non-Christian academics in an attempt to discover why 70 per cent of people in Britain believed in God, but only 14 per cent went to church. The group, which met over four years, also attempted to explore the consequences of this "fragmentation" of belief.

Dr Nazir-Ali said: "We have looked at contemporary spirituality, the pick-and-mix men-

talism." He said the study had provided evidence of surprising and worrying trends.

"For some reason, a very large number of people from a Roman Catholic background believe in reincarnation. But this belief is not limited to Catholics. Anglicans, in particular, excel at the pick-and-mix mentality."

The report, *The Search for Faith and the Witness of the Church*, examines five areas of "post-modern life", including organisations and how people belong to them, "impulse" folk and civil religion, contemporary spirituality, science and technology, and art and literature. Dr Nazir-Ali said: "The important point is that this is drifting belief. People are drifting away from Christian orthodoxy."

"It is becoming more eclectic. The more people move away from belonging to institutions, the less do they have something to anchor their faith. People pick up all kinds of things. This drifting of belief is causing fragmentation, and is itself fragmentation. We can see this personal and social fragmentation all around us."

The report describes a "maze of choices" for those seeking a spiritual solution and asks: "What happens to people who search for faith, who travel on a spiritual journey, who encounter the gospel, but who do not join the Church? What are the barriers to belief? What of people who hear the Gospel but cannot or will not believe it? What of those who encounter the Christian message and respond, but do not want to join the Church?"

Dr Nazir-Ali cited the interest in environmental and ecological issues as an example of fragmentation. "There is a whole spectrum of belief, ranging from concern about what is happening to the earth, to neo-paganism. Some might stop at thinking of the world as an ecosystem that needs to be protected. Some will think of the earth in a more personal way. This could even extend to thinking of it as a god or goddess."

The report cited the need for a "common language about ultimate values and beliefs," the Bishop said. "The post-modern fragmentation we are experiencing is also an opportunity for the Churches." He said the report did not argue for a theocracy, but he believed society must acknowledge that its basic moral and spiritual vision was inspired by the Judeo-Christian tradition.



John Hemmingham, leader of the Kop band, is ready to boost its decibel power for the World Cup qualifier

Hodde picks new players for England

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE England football team is expected to have its own band in the stand when it meets Italy at Wembley for the World Cup qualifier in the new year.

The band has been recruited by Glenn Hodde, the team coach, who saw it performing for its home team, Sheffield

Wednesday. An experiment during the last Wembley international, against Poland, was judged a success, although Mr Hodde decided that the band should be strengthened with the addition of a horn section.

John Hemmingham, leader of Sheffield Wednesday's Kop band, is waiting to hear whether it will be invited back to

Wembley for February's match. An FA official said the chances were "more than possible". Mr Hemmingham, 33, a trumpeter and used-car salesman, said he would have four drummers, a trombonist, a saxophonist and a sousaphone player available for selection.

England match report, page 29

£50m sports fund aims to improve medal haul

By JOHN GOODBODY

UP TO £50 million a year will be made available from the National Lottery to pay leading athletes' expenses in an attempt to boost Britain's sporting prowess.

It is believed that some, especially in Olympic events, could receive up to £28,000 tax-free. Britain won only one gold medal at the Olympics in Atlanta this year, the weakest performance since 1952.

Details of the scheme, announced in April, will be confirmed on Thursday. The first applications are expected by January, with initial payments by March.

The scheme, called the World Class Performance Programme, will aid those who cannot earn money and often rely on parents and benefits: all will be means-tested.

Outstanding competitors would receive more cash than less successful athletes, but the amount would depend on income and individual requirements. Athletes will be able to claim for food, rent, equipment, travel and coaching fees, including going to specialist venues abroad. They may also apply for money to pay coaches.

Shut the cathedral, says dean in feud

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE beleaguered Dean of Lincoln Cathedral, who has been involved in a feud with another senior clergyman, yesterday called for the cathedral to be closed for six months and exorcised, and for everyone from the bishop down to be sacked.

The clash centres on the acrimonious relationship between Dr Brandon Jackson and the Sub-Dean, Canon Rex Davis. Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has condemned it as a "scandal dishonouring the name of our Lord" and has called for both men to leave their posts.

Dr Jackson suggested the shutdown at a meeting of the Lincoln Diocesan Synod. He said: "I'm calling for a clear-out of the whole lot. That would include the bishop. The whole cathedral should be closed down for six months and exorcised."

Last year Dr Jackson was cleared by a consistory court of having an affair with the former verger, Verity Free-stone, 33, who is to begin a civil action this week alleging trespass against the person. He contests her claim.

The dean said: "The only solution is for us all to go. The Church of England won't do it, because it likes to fudge things."

About 150 delegates representing every Anglican church in the diocese discussed a

resolution submitted by Ray Snell, a member of the Diocesan Board of Finance. It was passed with four votes against and 20 abstentions. It said: "This synod expresses its grave concern at the failure of the dean and sub-dean of Lincoln to accede to the request by the archbishop that for the greater good of the cathedral and the wider Church, they should leave the cathedral."

The disagreement between the two clergymen became public when Dr Jackson criticised Canon Davis and contacted the fraud squad after a fund-raising project involved a loss of £56,000. The scheme involved taking the cathedral's treasured copy of Magna Carta to an exhibition in Australia in 1988.



Jackson said everyone should be dismissed

Letters, page 21

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Councils seek new law to aid innocent

HOUSING authorities want the Government to introduce legal reforms quickly to make it easier to evict violent and troublesome tenants.

At present it takes at least 34 weeks to win an eviction through the courts, sometimes far longer. The association asked Lord Woolf's inquiry into civil justice procedures to "simplify and accelerate" the process.

Lord Woolf agreed there was a need to protect witnesses and his final report recommended that proceedings should begin using unsigned statements. Local authorities want the Government to allow a neutral third party to interview vulnerable witnesses and give evidence for them. Jeanette York, of the Association of District Councils, said: "As landlords, the councils have to abide by the law, which leans towards the assailant rather than the victims."

Mother of murder victim receives death threats

BY DANIEL MCGROVY

THE mother of a young man who died after being assaulted in his front garden has received death threats a week after his attackers were convicted of murder.

Dorothy Erskine, 53, whose son Anthony, 19, died when he appealed to youths to stop harassing his father, has asked the local authority to evict the murderers' families or help her to move.

Since their conviction, friends and relatives of Mark Hemmens, 20, and Damian Collins, 16, have allegedly gloated about taking revenge on Mrs Erskine's two other sons and her husband, Harry, who stood helplessly alongside Anthony the night he was attacked. Hemmens was jailed for life and Collins sentenced to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure for what Mr Justice Keene described as a "vicious, cowardly attack".

Sitting in her living-room beside photographs of her son, Mrs Erskine, born in Malta, said she could not understand why her family was suffering. "These people have no con-



Anthony Erskine killed by neighbours on estate

science," she said at the former council house which the family, devout Catholics, now owns on the Clifton estate in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire. "They shout out to me they will put all my boys in coffins, and how can I take lightly such threats after what they have done?"

Her fears have grown since she found out that Collins's father, who lives three doors away, is to be released from prison next month. Police had to intervene when, allegedly, David Collins previously tried to attack the Erskine home

with a chainsaw. His wife, Sue, is serving eight months for trying to smuggle drugs to her eldest son, Leon, while he was in prison. Leon, 20, was convicted with his father for an attack on a neighbour. He was recently released and, within days, had allegedly threatened Mrs Erskine's teenage daughter, Natalie.

Mrs Erskine said: "It must be wrong that I should give up my home, but what choice do I have?" She points to petitions going back nine years and the excuses she has received from councillors, explaining why they would not evict the handful of troublemakers who have blighted what was once an enviable estate to live on. "I will never forgive the official complacency. It took a murder to get our case heard, but how many more families suffer daily abuse and harassment and are just ignored?"

Mrs Erskine, a catering supervisor, says the family can find no buyers for the four-bedroom house, which was on the market for £60,000. The only option is to accept an offer from the housing authority. "It seems wrong they have to buy me out and

not move those who cause such pain to all our neighbours."

The South Warwickshire Housing Association, which took over control of the council housing stock a month ago, said: "We are aware of the distress, but we had to wait for the murder case to reach a verdict and now we can only go by the book."

Jill Dill-Russell, a Stratford councillor, said: "It is extraordinary that, if you kill somebody, that is not grounds for automatic eviction, but if you damage the front door or something it can be."

Police have asked David Collins to leave the estate, but so far he refuses. Detective Inspector Peter Stanley, of Stratford police, said: "We do not want the Erskines to leave and will do everything in our power to stop any further harassment, but we cannot put a policeman on their doorstep for 24 hours a day."

Holding a picture of Anthony, Mrs Erskine said: "I cannot take any more, but if I am forced to leave I will feel like I abandoned friends and neighbours. But I have lost enough."



Dorothy Erskine at her home. She is asking for the killers' families to be evicted

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Trains to welcome bikes back on board

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

TRAIN companies are drafting plans to win back cyclists' custom after 15 years of hostility.

Several, including Great Western, Chiltern, Anglia and Thames, are preparing to allow more bicycles on trains and install secure lock-up facilities. Many are setting up bicycle hire shops at stations and some are considering tickets that would make it cheaper to travel with a bicycle than without.

Most companies believe they can attract more cyclists out of their cars and into trains by making bicycles more welcome. The new rail operators have also been issued with guidance from the Government to improve facilities for bicycles under its recent National Cycling Strategy.

One of the most pioneering moves is being made by Anglia, which is modifying all 16 of its local, two-carriage, trains to carry bicycles, which will be welcome not only on off-peak but also on rush-hour services. If the new moves prove successful, the company may add a special carriage for bicycles.

Cornwall shaken awake by earthquake

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

THE biggest earthquake to strike Britain this year knocked pictures off walls and cracked plaster in homes in west Cornwall yesterday. The tremor measured 3.8 on the Richter scale and was felt in towns and villages from Padstow to Land's End.

A deep rumbling was heard during the 20-second tremor at 9.28am. Police were inundated with calls. Andrew Plenty, 22, of Prior Sands, near Penzance, said: "It woke me up and there were things falling off shelves. It was a weird experience."

Richard Smith, manager of the Land's End Hotel, was woken as a picture fell off his wall. "It was very strong. The whole house shook, and there were people in the street afterwards trying to work out what it was," he said.

The British Geological Survey said that about 300 tremors a year occurred in Britain, with about one a week strong enough to be felt. The largest earthquake this century, which registered 5.4 on the Richter scale, happened in North Wales in 1984. Last March a tremor measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale hit the village of Harmer Hill, north of Shrewsbury.

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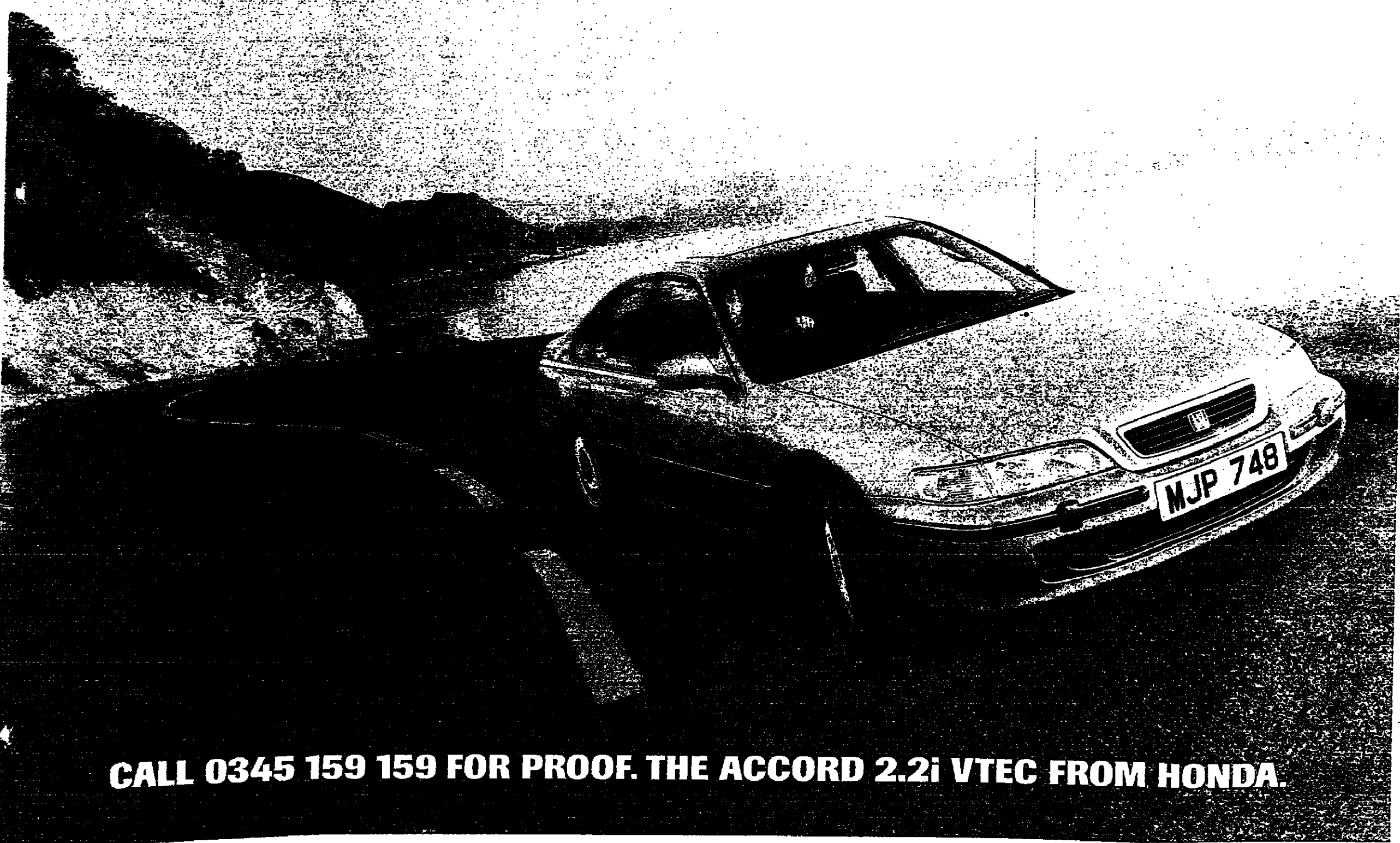
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SEE PAGE 2 FOR TODAY'S EUROSTAR TOKEN

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Power to the people – but who should speak for all?

Labour proposes to use the jury system as a way to involve the public in shaping the future of the gas, electricity and water industries. Last week Pat McFadden, a member of Tony Blair's office team, met Ned Crosby, the Minneapolis flour-milling heir who spent his fortune pioneering the idea by getting cross-sections of the American public to probe difficult questions and find solutions which had



One woman who served on a pilot citizens' jury which influenced mental health care in Kensington, Westminster and Chelsea, said that more than a third of her fellow jurors had been jobless. "That wasn't representative," Shirley Benn said. "Perhaps they were there in order to augment their benefits."

Critics also fear the system can be "rigged" by ensuring that advice to the jury is biased

pers. Ed Stanford, executive director of British Pharmaceutical Group, a health research organisation which paid for two Nissen juries, said: "If people don't read newspapers, how do they form views? If you have a jury meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, you take out a sizeable chunk of the population. You have to look at whether those views are representative of the community as a whole."

German jurors are compensated for loss of earnings, payments to employers and the provision of childcare.

Labour claims that a note written by Mr Willetts suggests that he tried to persuade Sir Geoffrey to defer an inquiry into allegations that Neil Hamilton, the former Trade Minister, accepted gifts from Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods.

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Britain knew Jews were being killed 'before Auschwitz'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

BRITISH intelligence knew about the widespread massacre of Jews in the Second World War as early as 1941, according to newly released records of decoded German cables.

The 1.3 million pages of intercepted German messages also provide evidence that much of the killing in the early years of the war was carried out by ordinary German police units, not the SS.

The transcripts of the secret British code-breaking operation known as Ultra intercepts, disclosed in *The Washington Post*, are among the earliest records of the systematic killing of European Jews by German forces. "The extraordinary thing about these documents is that they contain new information both about the Holocaust itself and what the West knew about the Holocaust," Richard Breitman, a history professor, told the *Post*.

Mr Breitman used the Freedom of Information Act to request the records from the National Security Agency, which had received the documents from Britain. The intercepts, which are headed "Most Secret. To be kept under lock

and key: never to be removed from the office", are still secret in Britain.

The code-breaking records, which cover short periods between July and September 1941, are particularly valuable because the early stages of the war are poorly documented. After Hitler's invasion of Russia on June 22, British intelligence had a spell of success in cracking the codes of cables sent by German commanders in Russia back to Berlin.

The documents suggest that the Russian invasion triggered systematic killing of Jews, well before the concentration camps at Buchenwald and Auschwitz began operating in 1942. Mr Breitman also argues, contrary to conventional wisdom, that it was the municipal squads of Order Police who were primarily responsible for the killing in the early stages of the war.

The documents will revive controversy about whether Western governments ignored intelligence about atrocities against the Jews, concentrating on enemy troop deployments. They will also fuel demands for a rise in estimates of the number of Jews killed in the war. Mr Breit-

man, who argues that the total could be closer to seven million than the usual estimate of six million, says that half a million Jews were killed in the Soviet Union in the last six months of 1940.

One cable, filed to Berlin from Belarus by Commander Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski on July 18, 1941, reported: "In yesterday's cleansing action in Slonim [Belarus], carried out by police regiment centre, 1,153 Jewish plunderers were shot." Another, from Ukraine on August 27, reports that Order Police Battalion 320 shot 4,200 Jews near the town of Kamenets-Podolsk; four days later, it reported another 2,200 shot dead.

At the same time, historians are starting to wade through 15,000 pages of Russian documents on the same period of the war, turned over last month by the Russian Government to the US Holocaust Museum. They are expected to provide an exceptionally full picture of the months of the invasion. As well as intelligence reports, they include interviews with witnesses compiled by a Soviet war crimes commission after the war.

Spain's fiery fisheries minister aims to calm troubled waters

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SPAIN'S hardline Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Loyola de Palacio, flies to London today for bridge-building talks with her British ministerial counterparts, Tony Baldry and Douglas Hogg.

Uppermost on the agenda is the festering dispute over the question of "quota-hopping" Spanish trawlers. British fisheries department officials are predicting a generally less hostile approach at today's meeting from Señora de Palacio, who lost her temper with Mr Baldry in Luxembourg last month at the

gathering of European Union fisheries ministers. Under the abrasive Señora de Palacio, a lawyer on the Right of the ruling Popular Party, fisheries has drawn level with Gibraltar as an obstacle to better Anglo-Spanish ties. By transferring 3 per cent of its fishing fleet to the British flag, Spain has been able to claim its fleet has been reduced. Meanwhile, Britain is resisting EU moves to cut fleets further until "quota-hopping" is outlawed.

Señora de Palacio needs desperately to settle the question. Spain owns a third of

Europe's fishing fleet (not counting "quota-hoppers"), and some 2,300 Spanish vessels depend for their catch on foreign waters.

Spain is, however, beginning to appreciate that a refusal to compromise might be counter-productive. Señora de Palacio will be seeking British support for her country's long-term aim of safeguarding its agricultural sector from reductions in EU support once countries such as Poland become members. It has already sought similar assurances from France and Germany.



Naina Yeltsin talks to Renat Akhchurin, the surgeon who carried out her husband's quintuple bypass operation. He admitted there had been times when he thought surgery would have to be cancelled completely. Doctors said yesterday that President Yeltsin's condition was satisfactory, but he is expected to remain in hospital for ten more days

Moscow cemetery bombing kills 13

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A REMOTE-controlled bomb cut through a packed group of mourners in a Moscow cemetery yesterday, killing 13 and wounding 16, in Russia's worst act of gangland violence.

Witnesses at Kotlyakovskoe cemetery said the device went off as scores of people paid their respects at the graveside of Mikhail Likhodet, the controversial head of an Afghan war veterans' charity, who was himself murdered in a bomb explosion two years ago. His widow and his successor in the job were among yesterday's dead.

"We come here every year to pay our respects," said Alisha, a tearful witness, who clung desperately to her grandson, who narrowly escaped injury. "This time there were about 150 people by the grave when suddenly there was a huge explosion and black smoke. It was total devastation. These people have no respect. It was an act of pure evil."

The power of the blast was so great that one victim, who took his full force, was blown 30 yards away.

Colonel Stanislav Zhorin of the Federal Security Service, the secret police, said the bomb, the equivalent of 5lb of TNT, was hidden under a table beside the grave and set off by a control wire that ran 40 yards from the site. "It was probably linked to the settling of old scores," he said.

Like several charities, the Afghan War Invalids' Foundation receives tax exemptions from the Government to help it to finance its assistance to some 14,000 wounded veterans. Because of their access to duty-free imports, the charities have become deeply involved with the mafia. Mr Likhodet was killed after a struggle for control of the Foundation with Valeri Radchikov, himself seriously wounded in a recent assassination attempt.

Even by the standards of Moscow's gangsters, yesterday's bombing set a grisly new record. This latest incident in a series of gangland killings will increase pressure for a crackdown on organised crime, out of control since the collapse of Communism.

Protests threaten Prodi hopes of joining EMU

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY'S Herculean attempt to join the European single currency was in turmoil last night after the right-wing opposition mobilised hundreds of thousands of supporters in Rome at the weekend to protest at planned tax rises.

Talks between the Government and opposition to find a compromise before the budget vote next week broke down last night, and President Scalfaro appealed for "calm and dialogue".

Vincenzo Visco, the Finance Minister, had suggested that the tax increases — designed to help Italy to meet the Maastricht parameters for a single currency — could be separated from other budget provisions and discussed in committee.

Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Prime Minister who leads the opposition as head of Forza Italia, saw this as a climbdown. But Professor Romano Prodi, leader of the Centre Left government, said that any compro-

misses by the Government "would not be a direct result" of the demonstrations. He said a "significant minority" had protested, but was clearly shaken by the turnout.

Earlier Signor Berlusconi told a rally at San Giovanni Laterano that Italian democracy was "in danger" and the Prodi government should "go home".

Signor Prodi said he was willing to negotiate "modification" to the budget with the opposition before the final vote in the Lower House at the end of next week. Rally organisers said a million people had responded to their call for protests against the 1997 draft budget which is designed to meet Maastricht parameters.

But police and the media put the numbers at around half a million. The Left mocked the well-heeled demonstrators, many dressed in suits and ties or designer casual clothes.

Signor Berlusconi said the austerity budget, which in-

cludes a special one-off "Euro tax", "is not going to get us into Europe anyway. We demand that it be dropped". At one stage Signor Berlusconi lost his temper, accusing Channel Three of RAI, Italian state television, of "Leftish" coverage of the demonstration.

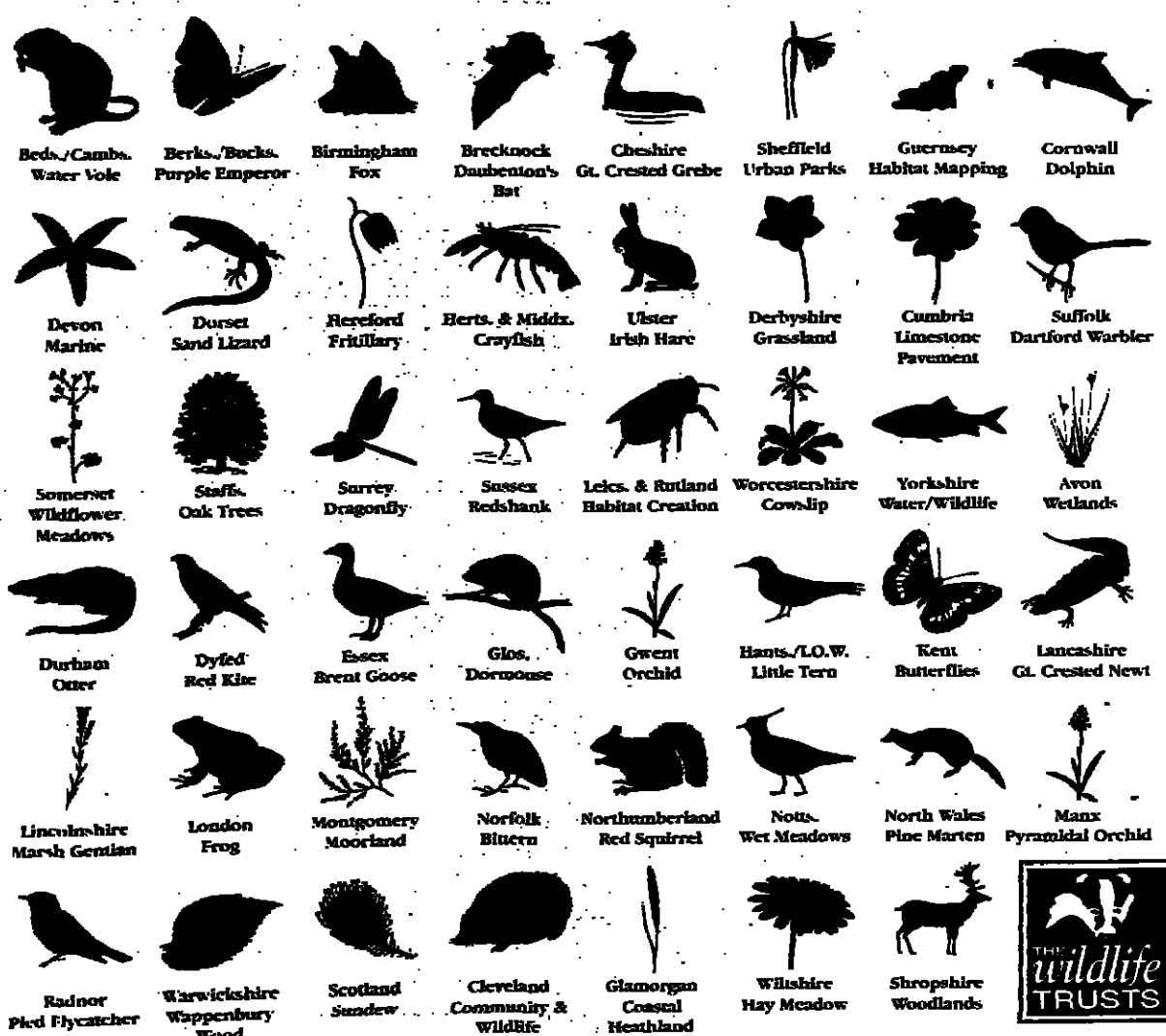
But Lucia Annunziata, the head of Channel Three news, said the station had provided full coverage, showing effigies carried by demonstrators of Signor Prodi as Pinocchio, the wooden puppet whose nose grows longer the more he lies.

□ New York: The European Union runs the risk of higher unemployment and interest rates as it moves toward a common currency, the financial rating firm Standard and Poor's warned. It said "there is a very real risk that for countries at the heart of Europe — Germany, France and The Netherlands — interest rates will rise" in the early stages of adopting the so-called euro currency. (AFP)



An anti-tax protester raises an effigy of a Prodi-Pinocchio

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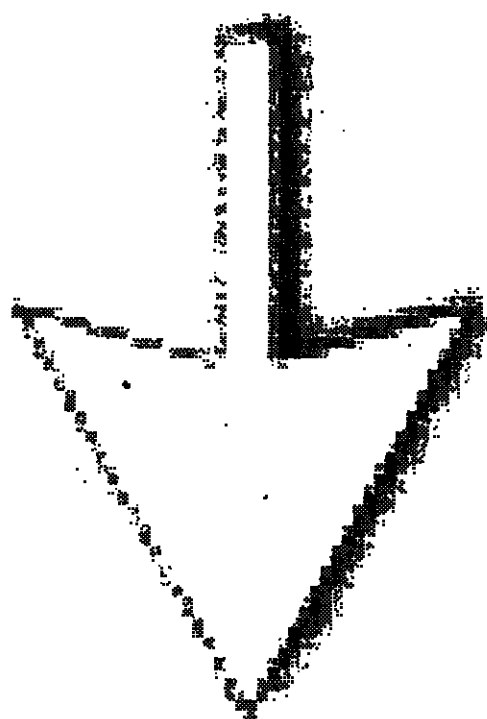
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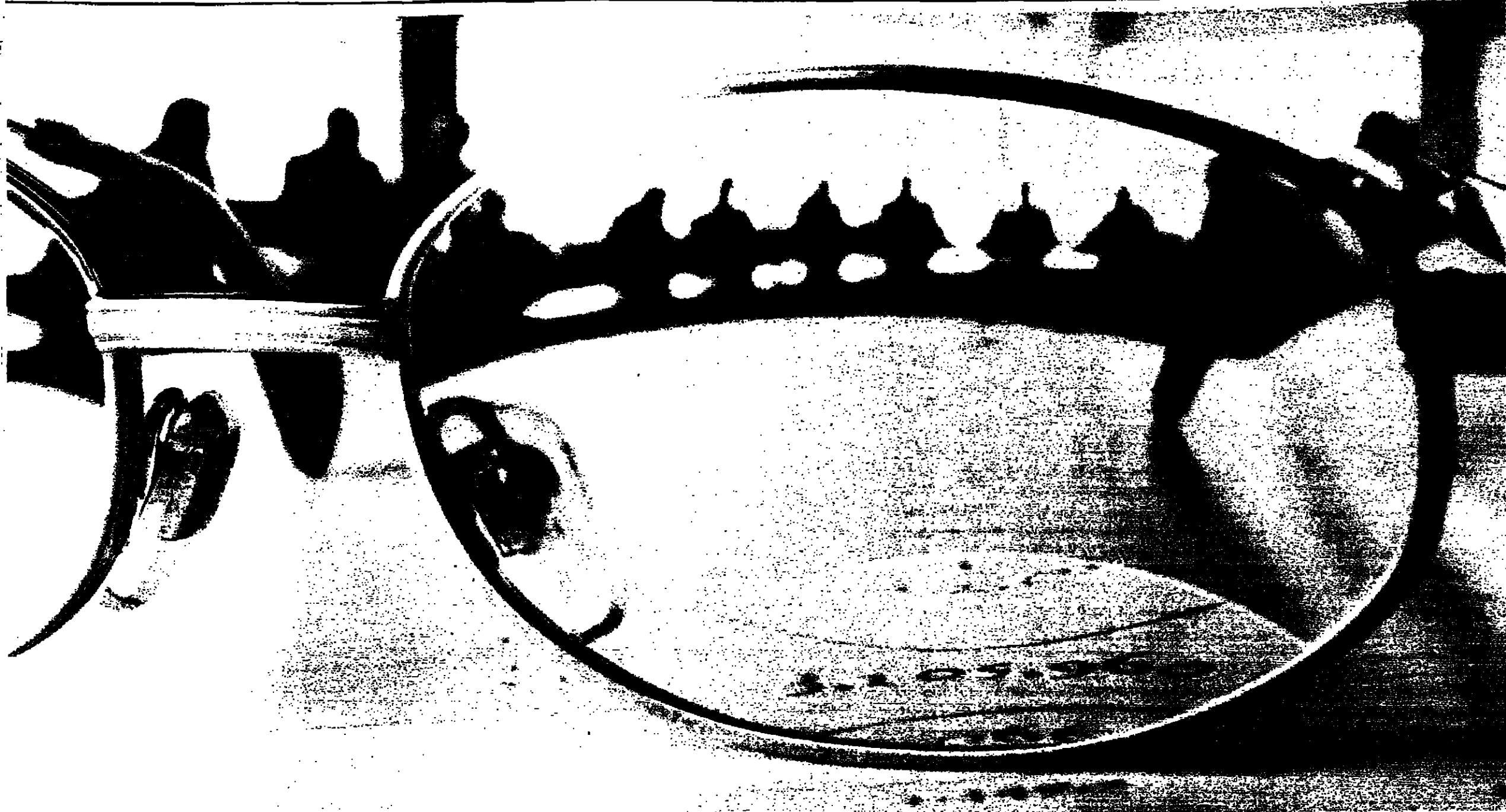
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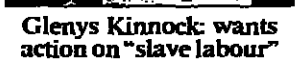
FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

Copies of the tape will be available to MEPs in Strasbourg this week, with the aim of mustering support for a European Union investigation into labour conditions in Burma and to end the preferential tariffs that the country enjoys under an EU system designed



Glenys Kinnock wants action on "slave labour"

During her Rangoon visit, Mrs Kinnock visited a satellite town. Areas off the tourist track were horrific, she said, adding: "I have never seen such deprivation and such malnourished children."



FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

It will be almost impossible to complete the process by

There are thus powerful vested interests in seeing it curtailed and the acting Government is bound to meet resistance as it seeks to expose influential figures. Asif Zardari, husband of Benazir Bhutto, the ousted Prime Minister, is still in custody 30 miles outside Islamabad while preliminary investigations are held into his financial conduct.

The sentence on Zhou Beifang, reported at the weekend by Peking sources but not mentioned in the local press, is also a further blow by the regime to the reputation of Deng Xiaoping, the 92-year-old and virtually moribund Senior Leader. Zhou is the son of Zhou Guanwu, one of Mr Deng's civil war comrades.

General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian-Serb army commander indicted for war crimes and wanted by the International War Crimes Tribunal, has been relieved of his post as the Commander of the General Staff (Dessa Trevisan writes). Major-General Pero Colic was sworn in as his successor at a ceremony in Pale.

Kabul: Heavy exchanges of rocket and artillery fire raged along the front line north of Kabul, but there was no sign of any breakthrough by either side in Afghanistan's civil war. Taleban militia gunners launched a barrage on opposition forces, who responded with air attacks on Taleban positions. *(Reuters)*

Algiers: Muslim fundamentalists killed 15 people and wounded more than 30, including many children, in a car bomb attack on a bus taking workers to their jobs in the Algerian capital, security forces said. The bus was going past a school when it was blown apart. (AP, Reuters)

Los Angeles: Frank Sinatra, 80, who spent eight days in a medical centre amid reports that he was suffering pneumonia and heart problems, has returned home after what a spokesman and hospital officials said was treatment of a pinched nerve. (AP)



**FROM ROGER MAYNARD
IN SYDNEY**

McNaughtan said. "I was very frightened . . . a spark at any moment and it could have turned into a bloodbath." Malaysia denied it had backed the intruders.

Fifty-nine Malaysians were also detained by police, who have been given four days to bring charges. A correspondent for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Catherine McGrath, was arrested while covering the meeting. She was among a group of 20 women released later.

John Howard, Australia's Prime Minister, described the detention of the foreigners as unfortunate, but pointed out that they had broken the country's rules by attending the banned meeting.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SEASON OF SPORT



WORLD CUP TRAIL

England lead the British pack towards France in 1998 by beating Georgia. Rob Hughes and Steve McManaman report
PAGE 29

PLUS

David Miller and Kevin McCarra watch Scotland beat Sweden at Ibrox
PAGE 28



TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 1996

HOLYFIELD STUNG TYSON TO BRING BOXING OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Bloodied, battered, beaten

AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN LAS VEGAS

THE heavyweight division came out of the shadow of Mike Tyson here early yesterday, a shadow as dark and forbidding as his scowl when he was being shown to his corner after being stopped by Evander Holyfield in the eleventh round of their World Boxing Association championship contest.

For the past nine years, the division had been dominated by Tyson, so mesmerised were the luminaries of the sport by the eyes of the man who could freeze the blood of his opponents with a stare.

Boxing people did not even realise that they were living in a shadowy world in more ways than one, where good heavyweights such as Lennox Lewis, Riddick Bowe and Tim Witherpoon were marginalised in case they tested Tyson and ended the cozy arrangement that brought him and the alphabet men millions.

From his four previous bouts, Tyson made \$105 million (about £68 million), but at MGM Grand Garden, that all ended. Before 15,000 people, Holyfield let in the light. He exposed Tyson's world of bullying and bluster by giving him the pasting of his life.

Holyfield's victory was doubly exhilarating because he is a quiet and modest man. A Christian, he said afterwards: "I've prayed all my life. I have never in my life had any dislike for Mike. I just got love for everybody. I wanted to be

the world heavyweight champion by fighting the best man. I prepared myself to meet the best man. I prayed all the time I trained. I prayed when I was fighting him. When I come to fight, I bring everything with me."

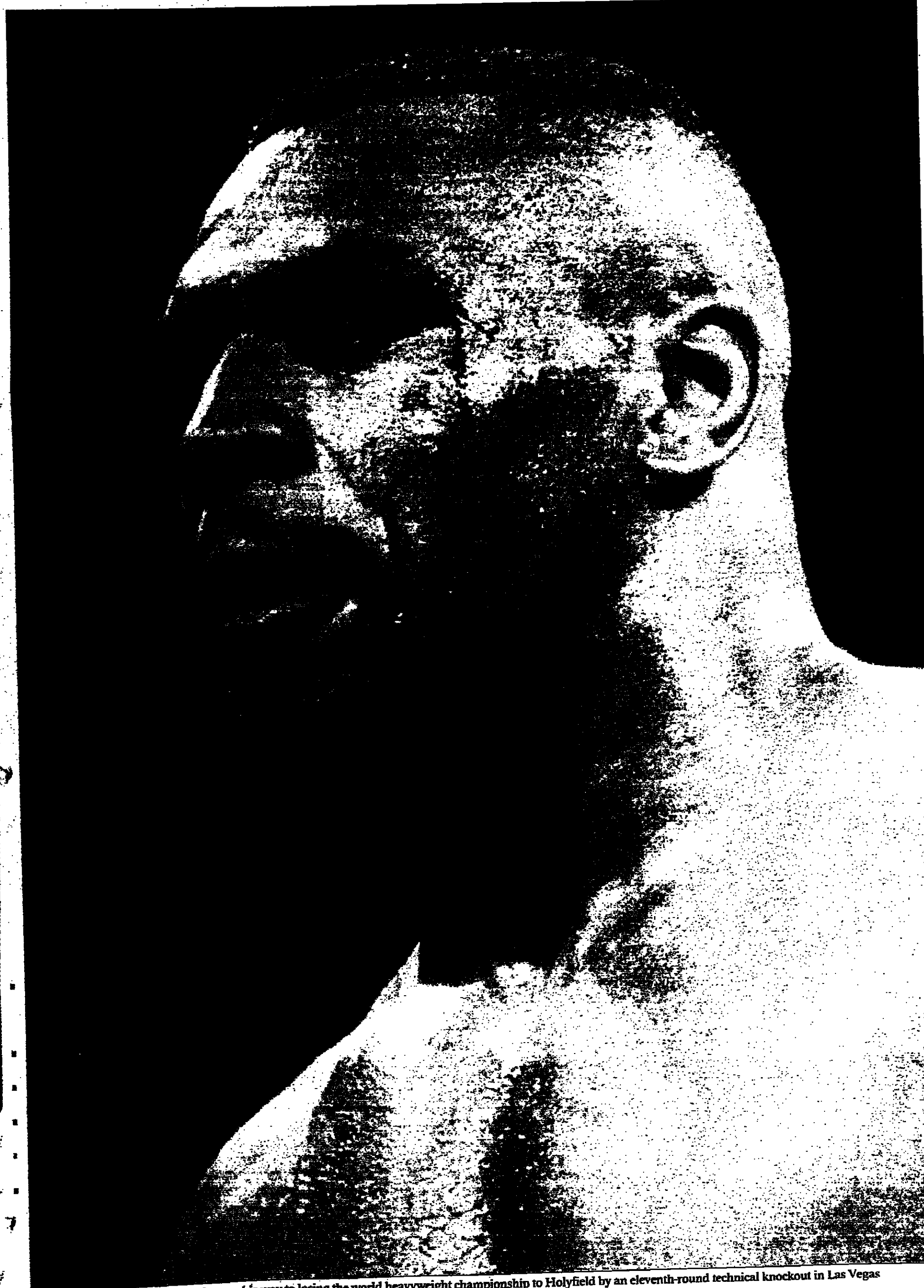
Tyson, who is usually surly at press conferences and gives journalists short answers before a quick departure, sat dabbling his sore head with a towel and listening to Holyfield with dutiful attention like a chastised small boy.

He admitted that he had been fairly beaten. "I fought my best," he said. "He put up a hell of a fight." Then, turning to Holyfield, he shook his hand and said: "Thank you very much. I've got great respect for you. I hope we can do it again." Holyfield nodded.

The heavyweight division, which Don King, Tyson's promoter, had lined up for Tyson to unify against some of the worst champions that the weight has ever seen, is almost out of King's grasp. He still holds promotion rights for Holyfield's contests, but the champion is under contract to Main Event, the group that also promotes Lennox Lewis.

So Lewis can now look forward to getting a title bout with Holyfield. Holyfield's victory has made heavyweight boxing a fairer place.

Tyson falls, page 1
Leading article, page 21
Reports, page 27
Benn bows out, page 27



Tyson, cut and bleeding, on his way to losing the world heavyweight championship to Holyfield by an eleventh-round technical knockout in Las Vegas

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Holyfield turns Tyson's world upside down

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN LAS VEGAS

THE demise of Mike Tyson was presaged by an event that had a Western movie flavour to it. Just two days before the World Boxing Association title bout, a quiet "stranger" came into town. He was a big man and bespectacled. His name was James "Buster" Douglas, who was the first man to beat Tyson, in Tokyo in 1990.

Douglas surprised everyone by predicting confidently that Holyfield would defeat Tyson. Douglas said that, if a boxer could face Tyson and stick to his game-plan after the first bell, Tyson was as vulnerable as the next man. Douglas knows all about Holyfield's heart and his punch, having been knocked out by him in three rounds just eight months after he had taken the undisputed title from Tyson.

Curiously, Tyson was nearly finished off in the tenth, the same round in which Douglas sent Tyson to the floor for the last time in Tokyo. This time, the bell came to Tyson's aid and Holyfield had to wait until the eleventh to complete the job.

After spending a miserable minute on his stool, with his corner feverishly trying to

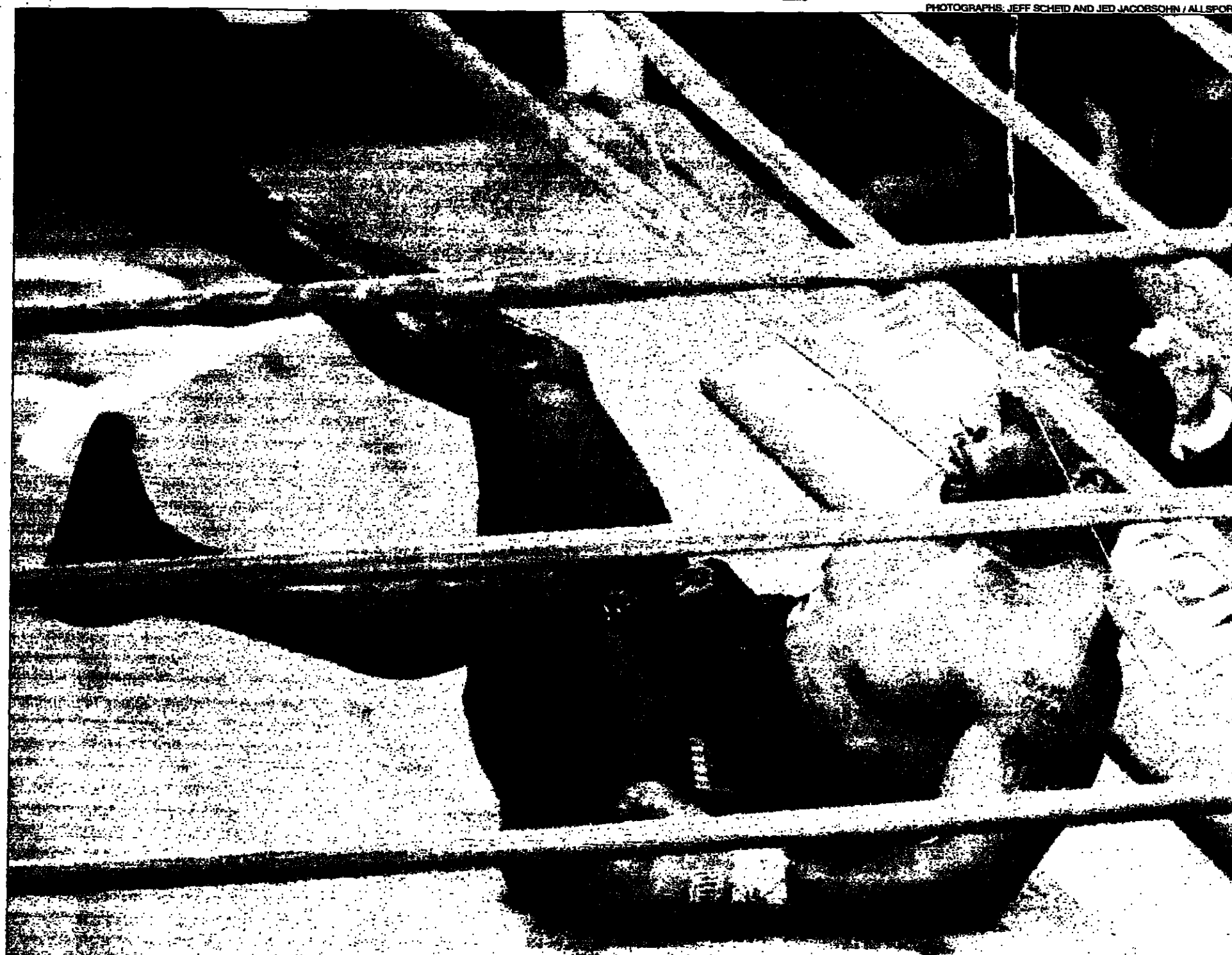
of the sun; which, in a way, it was. Although it was an upset from the bookmakers' point of view, it was not a huge surprise from a boxing standpoint. Holyfield was always capable of beating Tyson. It was simply that the experts had assessed his chances wrongly. If Holyfield were to meet him in a rematch, he would almost certainly beat him more convincingly. On the scorecards at the end, Holyfield was ahead 100-93 (meaning that, according to that judge, he had not lost a round), 96-92, 96-92. The ending reminded me of Sean Connery's line in *The Untouchables*: "You don't bring a knife to a gun fight." Everyone had thought that it would be Holyfield who would be ill-equipped, but it was Tyson who was left holding a pen-knife. Holyfield had the bombs and knew how to drop them.

How different it all was from the preliminaries that went before the first bell. Tyson, 30, came down the aisle with a retinue of more than 50. He climbed through the ropes and roamed the ring in his usual black trunks, black boots, and a short black poncho-like garment designed to make him appear like a samurai warrior, but which appeared to have been chewed by his pet tiger. All the while, he stared at Holyfield, who stood, dressed in purple, with his head bowed as if in prayer.

At the first bell, Tyson came out quickly and a glancing blow sent Holyfield staggering sideways. It seemed to signal a violent and quick finish. Tyson started piling in overhand rights, left hooks and uppercuts, but Holyfield, instead of falling back, simply stepped forward and traded blow for blow.

Every time that Tyson appeared to get the upper hand, Holyfield either stifled the blows by leaning on him or ducked under the punches and came up with two-handed combinations. Surprisingly, even at such an early stage as the third round, Tyson seemed taken aback by Holyfield's aggression. Also, for the first time, Tyson did not have the crowd behind him. They were backing the quiet man and they raised a cheer every time he struck home.

It was punch for punch going into the fifth round. Tyson may have won a couple of these rounds, but they were not scored unanimously in his favour on the judges' cards. Unable to dominate his opponent, Tyson came into the sixth round looking wobegone, gloves up and hesitant. Every time that Tyson loaded up, Holyfield either jabbed and pushed him back or grabbed him. Suddenly, the challenger unleashed a left hook that sent Tyson reeling backwards and, remarkably,



Fall of a champion: Tyson, to the astonishment of the 15,000 crowd watching in Las Vegas, is sent crashing to the canvas in the sixth round by a left hook from Holyfield



Holyfield dominant

revive him, Tyson came out on unsteady feet. For once, his gloves were up to cushion the punches that he expected Holyfield to unleash.

Holyfield cut his way through with three jabs that sent Tyson reeling backwards against the ropes. If Tyson had gone down, he might have had a chance to recover, but he did not know where he was and, as Holyfield leapt forward, quickly landing 12 blows without reply, Mitch Halpern, the referee, jumped between the two men.

The myth of the invincibility of Tyson was broken. Most of the crowd of 15,000, that had been encouraging Holyfield by shouting "Holy Holy!", jumped to their feet to savour the last moments of the terror of the ring.

It was like watching an unusual event, like the eclipse

downwards. You could almost hear the silence of the crowd before it suddenly spilled into a cheer. Tyson was a sorry sight at the end of that round and kept complaining about his eye, which had suffered damage in a clash of heads.

Holyfield, 34, dominated the next four rounds but Tyson caught him with a cracking left hook in the tenth that made him hold on for a second. So quickly did he shake off the effects of that blow, and come back to hurt Tyson, that the champion's heart must have been broken at that point.

Apart from Tyson being felled in the sixth and sent staggering in the tenth and eleventh, there were other experiences that were new to Tyson and the crowd: the sight of Tyson complaining about a cut eye, Tyson hanging on to

PREVIOUS GREAT UPSETS

James Braddock v Max Baer

June 13, 1935: Braddock, the "Cinderella man", came out of virtual retirement to defeat Baer over 15 rounds at Long Beach. Baer had knocked out Primo Carnera to take the title 12 months earlier.

Cassius Clay v Sonny Liston

Feb 25, 1964: Clay, 22, had predicted that he would upset the odds and did just that when he forced Liston to retire on his stool after six rounds in Miami. It was the first of his 25 world title bouts.

Leon Spinks v Muhammad Ali

Feb 15, 1978: Leon Spinks outpointed Ali, 12 years his junior, in Las Vegas. James "Buster" Douglas v Mike Tyson

Feb 11, 1990: Douglas stunned the world by knocking out the world champion in Tokyo and inflicting his first defeat.

Oliver McCall v Lennox Lewis

Sep 25, 1994: Lewis walked into a left hand and lost his title after 31 seconds of the second round at Wembley.

Holyfield's arm to prevent himself from falling backwards after a clash of heads. Tyson standing still like an exhausted bull in a bull-ring watching Holyfield come for him. Tyson allowing Holyfield to jab and box and take charge. Tyson holding Holyfield's left hand under his arm.

No wonder, then, that after the bout Tyson said: "I don't remember anything about the

knockdown. I really don't know what happened. He head-butted me, but I probably did the same too. I believe the head butt caused the gash on my eye. He hit me with a pretty good punch when I went down. He fought a good fight. I'm OK, but my eyes hurt."

Emmanuel Steward, who used to be Holyfield's trainer and is now with Lennox

Lewis, was at ringside. "Tyson's not used to being in a real fight," he said. "He's had only five real fights in his whole career. Otherwise, he fought guys who wouldn't fight back and he wasn't prepared for one who would. If there is a rematch, Holyfield will win bigger."

"The first three rounds I saw the chemistry of the fight. Tyson kept trying to land a left hook and never did. I would have had him work more to the body. He hardly used his jab. The whole thing was throwing one big punch. He didn't have the ability to adjust and make a U-turn."

"Holyfield will go down as one of the all-time greats. His accomplishments are formidable for a stuffed-up cruiserweight. He rises to the occasion. He's good on big-time fights."

Akinwande retains title in fine style

HENRY AKINWANDE of Great Britain, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) heavyweight champion, retained his title with a one-sided win over Alex Zolkin, of Russia, on the undercard of the Tyson-Holyfield bill (Srikumar Sen writes).

The bout was stopped in the ninth round, when Zolkin was prevented from continuing because of a cut eye. Before that, Akinwande, using his right hand to telling effect against Zolkin's southpaw stance, had won most of the rounds and, in the fourth, had put Zolkin on the canvas.

As Zolkin is a good four inches shorter than Akinwande, who stands 6ft 7in, he was able to land hardly a solid blow on the champion, who either neatly stepped back out of reach or ducked under Zolkin's ponderous swings.

Akinwande now wants to move to the No 3 position in the World Boxing Council (WBC) ratings and challenge the winner of the bout between Lennox Lewis and Oliver McCall. "We would love to fight Lewis," Jean Courreges, Akinwande's manager, said, "but Don King is offering us a lot of

money to fight Scott Welch." Welch, from Shoreham, the WBO No 1, is the most likely opponent, as the Lewis team is demanding that Akinwande is not forced on their man if Lewis beats McCall. Lewis is insisting on one voluntary defence before meeting Akinwande.

According to Panos Eliades, Lewis's main negotiator, there is a good chance that their demand will be met by King.

King and Jose Sulaiman, the president of the WBC, have been ordered to appear

Results 34

in a court in New Jersey to explain why they did not obey a court order and give Lewis his world title contest with McCall by December 26. If Lewis wins the case, it will cost King and the WBC around \$10 million (about £6.5 million). Eliades believes that, since King wants him to call off the court action, he will give them what they want.

Also on the undercard in Las Vegas, Welch had an unimpressive points win over a grossly overweight Daniele Netto, of Argentina.

Benn's retirement saves mind-blowing results

THE immutable laws of boxing were drummed into the brain of Nigel Benn with every one of the primitive blows delivered by his opponent in Manchester on Saturday night. Steve Collins may still be the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, but Benn emerged from the hysteria of the Nines Arena with the most prized possession of all.

At the end of the sixth round, sitting on the "No Fear" logo on the back of his black satin shorts, Benn finally weighed up the odds, contemplated another 15 minutes of needless pain and saw the sense in what many of his friends had been telling him for some weeks.

The final decision to retire was made by Benn himself, but it had been clear since the middle of the fourth, when the tide had begun to turn slowly but inexorably in favour of the champion, that Benn's corner were increasingly disconcerted by the punishment that their man was starting to ship.

Denny Mancini, Benn's veteran trainer, hopped from side to side with the anxiety of a child watching a horror film, exhorting Benn to jab and move. At one point, as two more clubbing punches from Collins sent a shudder through Benn's ginger-tipped dreadlocks, he waved his arms across each other as if wanting to throw in the towel there and then. Peter DeFrenas, Benn's manager, had warned his charge at the end of round five that he only had one more round to carry on the more subtle plan devised for him.

Instead, with a multimillionaire and lifted him into the top rank of boxing champions

from Great Britain, Benn decided to trade blows with the stronger Irishman one last time. A flurry of activity in the corner heralded the third, and, for Benn's sake, it is to be hoped, the last, retirement.

What followed was not, in the cold light of a Manchester morning, the prettiest moment in the history of boxing. A chorus of boos drowned out Benn's explanation — and apology — to the crowd, most of whom had been cheering him to the echo only seconds before. "What a load of rubbish," they sang.

Perhaps only Eric Cantona, who had been awarded a thunderous introduction before the bout, could truly understand such fickleness.

Andrew Longmore says the Englishman had earned the right to decide his own fate

If anyone has earned the right to decide his own fate, it is Benn, no matter how stale the post-fight cabaret has become. Anyone thinking otherwise had only to cast his mind back to Gerald McClellan, whose courage has cost him much of his movement and all of his sight. Benn does not deserve a similar epitaph. That was Benn's sixteenth world title fight.

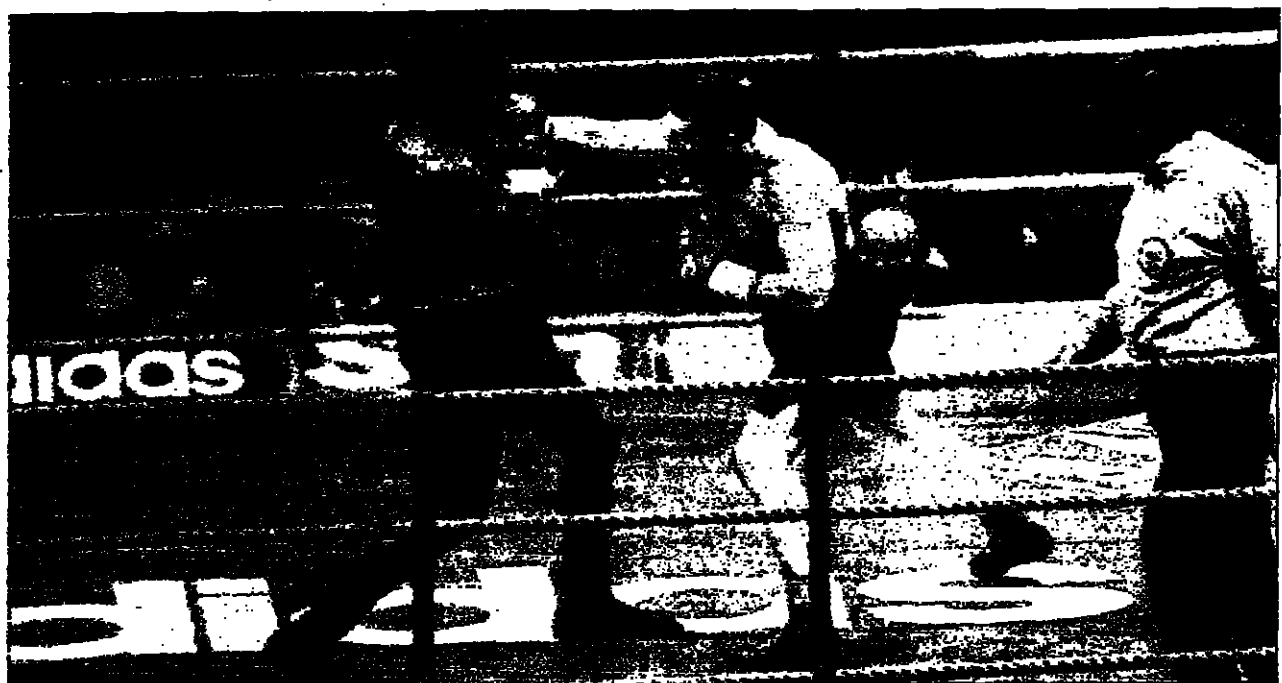
"I have been giving my all for ten years now, but the body can only take so much," Benn said. "The crowd want blood, guts and tears, but I don't

want to see Nigel Benn like that. They would rather see me injured than quit, but, if the snap is gone, why carry on?"

It was just a shame that, having retired after his last two defeats, by Thulane Malinga and Collins, Benn was swayed into throwing the dice once more. In his heyday, some of the punches that landed on Collins's stubbled chin in the first three rounds would have felled even the durable Irishman. Collins blinked and rocked, but stayed on his feet. Benn knew then

that defeat was his only option. "Nigel came to fight and he hurt me more than he did last time," Collins said.

Nothing should detract from the champion, who bore out his pre-fight assurance with a performance of bulldozing power. Jab, Benn's corner said, only dimly aware that their man might as well have been standing in front of a steamroller. At the age of 32, his toughness chiselled out of a Dublin backstreet and shaped by hours of education in American gyms, the hardest boxing school of all, Collins has reached his peak late in boxing life, but he is all the stronger for knowing where he has been and how he got where he is. He is a champion.



Collins launches another ferocious attack with a clubbing right to the head of Benn. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Shaken, not stirred



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FOOTBALL: BASSETT REWARDED FOR SPURNING CHANCE OF POSTPONEMENT AGAINST LONDON RIVALS

Palace play along to secure rise in status

Crystal Palace 3
Queens Park Rangers 0

By DAVID POWELL

THE decision by Crystal Palace not to seek a postponement because of international call-ups was rewarded at Selhurst Park yesterday when they moved into second place in the Nationwide League first division. With their fourth successive league victory, they became the highest scorers in the four divisions.

A recent change in Football League rules offered Palace the chance to request a postponement, based on having four players away on international under-21 duty. However, because only two are regulars in his first team, Dave Bassett, the Palace manager, preferred to play on. Bassett wanted to make the most of his team's form and avoid a backlog of fixtures.

Sky's money for live television coverage might have helped, too.

Scotland prevail 28
Wales routed 28
Hodde's triumph 29

Anyway, the two first-teamers in question were back in time to play, albeit though they did not arrive home until only 16 hours before kick-off.

Neither showed any ill-effects from the journey and changing time zones and it was a goal from one of them, Bruce Dyer, who had played in the England Under-21 victory over Georgia on Friday, that set Palace on their way to a victory ultimately clear-cut, but by no means certain for 70 minutes.

They deserved the win, but not by three goals, and Bassett acknowledged that much of their passing had been sloppy. Dyer was the fortunate beneficiary of a 35th-minute shot from Kevin Muscat. When Muscat shot from outside the penalty area, it appeared to be covered by Jurgen Sommer, the QPR goalkeeper, until it took a wicked deflection into goal off Dyer's chest.

Before that, Chris Day, the Palace goalkeeper and the club's other Georgia traveller, had denied QPR the lead with a one-handed save from Steve Slade's shot. A 20-yard drive by Dougie Freedman was saved by Sommer to deny Palace a two-goal interval

lead. The second half began with Freedman shooting narrowly over, but it was QPR who looked menacing.

Day had to save point-blank from Daniele Di Sisto, Slade clean through, shot wide and Alan McDonald's long-range volley went fractionally wide.

Palace, having the best of the good fortune, went two up after 70 minutes when Neil Shipperley's shot was blocked by McDonald. Freedman seized on the ricochet, but was denied by Sommer, only for Shipperley to be presented with a second chance which he took. Palace's run of four wins, that comes with a 13-1 goal reading, began with Shipperley's first appearance after his £1 million signing from Southampton.

David Hopkin fired against the QPR crossbar after 72 minutes and, on the stroke of full-time, beat Sommer from 20 yards after Freedman and Shipperley had seen their shots saved by the goalkeeper.

Last season, Palace's home form cost them promotion. They won only nine of their 23 matches, falling four points short of Derby County, who were promoted as runners-up. This season, Palace have won five out of eight at Selhurst Park while continuing to show up well away from home.

On this day two months ago, Palace were fourteenth and, provided that Norwich City do not win at Barnsley tomorrow, their match at Bolton Wanderers on Saturday will be a clash of the top two. It will be a stiff test of character for the team that Bassett describes as "exceptionally young".

When Stewart Houston took over as manager two months ago, QPR were above Palace in sixth place now, they are seventh, having played more games than the majority around them, only 11 points taken from 11 matches since Houston arrived.

Trevor Sinclair, their £5 million-rated winger, has withdrawn his transfer request and can expect new team colleagues soon. "I would like to think we can get some players to the club," Houston, who has money to spend, said.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-3-3): C Day - D Lobb, A Roberts, R Carr (sub: D Gordon, J Hunt, K Holmes) - M Edwards, D Hopkin, C Dyer - B Dyer (sub: L McFarlane, Zhi, D Freedman) (sub: P Hollace, S. N. Shipperley). QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J Sommer - M Graham, A McDonald, P Ruddy, R Bennett - J Sinclair, S Butler, S Murray, A Inyang - S Slade (sub: L Charles, G. D. Decho). Referee: S. Matheson.



Muscat, left, the Palace defender, tackles Mark Graham during the defeat of Queens Park Rangers yesterday

Brentford tussle with life on high

Brian Glanville sees the Griffin Park side let slip a two-goal advantage

Brentford are finding it tough at the - almost - top. Not a single win in their past four Nationwide League second division games, and this time, at Griffin Park, they threw away a two-goal lead against Stockport County in the last 12 minutes.

David Webb, their usually ebullient manager, was not a bit pleased. "Charity, wasn't it, really?" he asked. "Christmas charity came early, so we can start putting a stop to it. Inexperience, more than anything else. I never see any of my players roll back each other or get back and help out. They tend to do clever things. They don't have to do clever things. And, as he intimated, there was nothing clever about having 'switched off' after we got the second goal."

Brentford are a curious team, in the image of Robert Taylor, their strong, rangy attacker, previously used at centre forward but now deployed in midfield. There is nothing elegant about him. At times, he can look positively clumsy; at other times, he will startle with a superbly-struck and cleverly-conceived pass.

Even he, though, was not exonerated by Webb.

"Bob fell in the trap as well, really," Webb said. "After we got the two goals, he sat on the edge of the box, and we didn't do things as quickly as usual."

Brentford, in second spot in the division, could have scored as early as the ninth minute, through Taylor. He stole, unmarked, into place on the left of goal, was well spotted and served by Smith and Forster, coolly lobbed Jones, the Stockport goalkeeper, only for Flynn to pop up and head the ball over.

A couple of minutes later, Stockport, always functional rather than inspired, were at the other end, where Jeffers and Angell set up Mutch, who swung at the ball and missed it completely. Well, Cantona did just the same thing, playing for Manchester United against Fenerbahçe. Taylor continued sporadically to do impressive things. It was his fine pass that found the ever-active Forster. Jones, always

more reliable on the ground than in the air, dived to turn the shot for a corner.

Taylor, yet again, found Forster, who negotiated Jones, only for Downing to deflect his shot behind. Not until nine minutes into the second half did Brentford score. Forster launched Omigie. Jones did well to block at his feet, but Canham put in the loose ball.

Fifteen minutes from time, Forster hit Brentford's second, a powerful drive from 25 yards, but one which scarcely looked irresistible.

Webb said: "Nicky gets a goal there out of nothing. There were much easier chances to score."

Surprisingly easy seemed Stockport's reply, only minutes later. Angell rising to head in Marsden's right-wing corner at the near post. David Jones, the manager of the Stockport team that put Blackburn Rovers out of the

Coca-Cola Cup at Ewood Park and waits to play away to West Ham United, is trying to make Angell's loan from Sunderland permanent.

Stockport seem to have rehabilitated Angell after his wilderness years at Goodison and Roker Park. "When Brett came, the first three months, we knew we had to get him fit," Jones said. "His form and his confidence took an almighty drop. The boy wants to do it, that's the main thing."

As Jones pointed out, Stockport were missing Armstrong, their main scorer. His team, Jones said, make a habit of coming from behind. "It's something we've instilled into them," he said. "It's not the first time we've done it. I honestly thought when we got to 2-2 we might have won it."

The equaliser was a strike by Cavaco, the Portuguese substitute, six minutes from the end. "I just hope we learn from it," Webb said.

Millwall's image on an upward curve with Nicholl

Bristol City 1
Millwall 1

By PAT GIBSON

IT IS time that Millwall changed their tune. No one likes them and they don't care, or so their supporters never tire of telling us, yet there are plenty to like about them at Ashton Gate and at least one good reason why we should all care.

Millwall are on top of the Nationwide League second division and they have got there by keeping faith with the passionate belief of Jimmy Nicholl, their manager, in short, sharp passing football. Nicholl's team bears no resemblance to the old image of Millwall.

"I don't believe that you just win games with blood and guts," he said in the match programme. "You go and do your work, you do your hustling, and the harder you work, the quicker you get the ball back. Then you can start playing your game. You don't have to be nasty about it."

His players were as good as his words. They faced a fearsome challenge from a Bristol City side full of confidence after emulating Millwall's run of seven games without defeat, but, inspired by Bowry, their cultured captain, in midfield, they never stopped trying to play their own game.

There were times when the sheer force of City's attacking play threatened to overwhelm them, but Millwall's patience was finally rewarded in the 77th minute when Dair's through ball released Crawford and he finished with great aplomb.

There seemed to be no way back for City after that, but Millwall had reckoned without an influence from beyond the field. Five minutes after Crawford's goal, the referee seemed perfectly happy with Witter's challenge on Seal, which left the substitute sprawling 20 yards from the Millwall goal. One of his linesmen, flagging furiously, not only insisted that it was a foul, but also that Witter should be cautioned.

As if that was not punishment enough, Barnard then struck the free kick superbly with his left foot into the top left-hand corner, which left Nicholl complaining that referees should make their own decisions and not be talked into changing their minds. He had a point.

BRISTOL CITY (4-3-3): S Naylor - L Carey, R Edwards, S Taylor (sub: S Patterson, Samir, D Barnard) - C Goodridge, G Owens, R Trimm - G Goodridge (sub: S Partridge, G. S. Golder (sub: D Seal, 78)). MILLWALL (4-3-3): T Carter - R Newman, A White, S Fitzgerald (sub: G Lavi, 70, M Hart) - D Savage, B Bowry, L Neil - P Hartley, S Crawford, J Dair. Referee: S Barnes.

Hungover Oldham stuck with just the memories

Oldham Athletic 0
Portsmouth 0

By MARK HODKINSON

SUN-BLEACHED stickers bearing the name of Oldham Athletic are fastened to car windows throughout the Lancashire town. They are reminders of a glorious past only just out of touching distance. A Littlewoods Cup final appearance in 1990, three seasons in the top division, international players, inflatable spotted dogs - already it has a ghostly, unreal hue.

Oldham Athletic today are the morning after the party of the night before, a town with its blinds drawn, especially on Saturdays when cars - and their jaunty stickers - stay in the driveway.

Only the staunch remain and they don overcoats and gloves to trudge the damp streets to Boundary Park. The "Good Time Charlies", as the locals dub them, have now left the fold, to find glamour and glory elsewhere.

Third from bottom in the Nationwide League first division and with just one home victory in ten previous matches, the omens for the visit of Portsmouth were not good and the game was dire. Both teams played complex, tactical formations but there was not enough basic proficiency to make them work.

They followed the ball, kicking it wantonly, until, finally, the match became a dense broth of boredom. Oldham fell upon a trio of chances after half-time. Barlow headed into Flahaven's arms from close range and Rickers twice shot wide.

David Hillier, making his debut for Portsmouth, decided that Oldham in November is no place to be. After being tackled fiercely by Henry, he trampled on him as he lay on the ground and continued doing so for some time, just to guarantee the sending off and a soothing long bath.

"I cannot defend David's actions," Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, said, before proceeding to do just that, "but it was a foul on him in the first place."

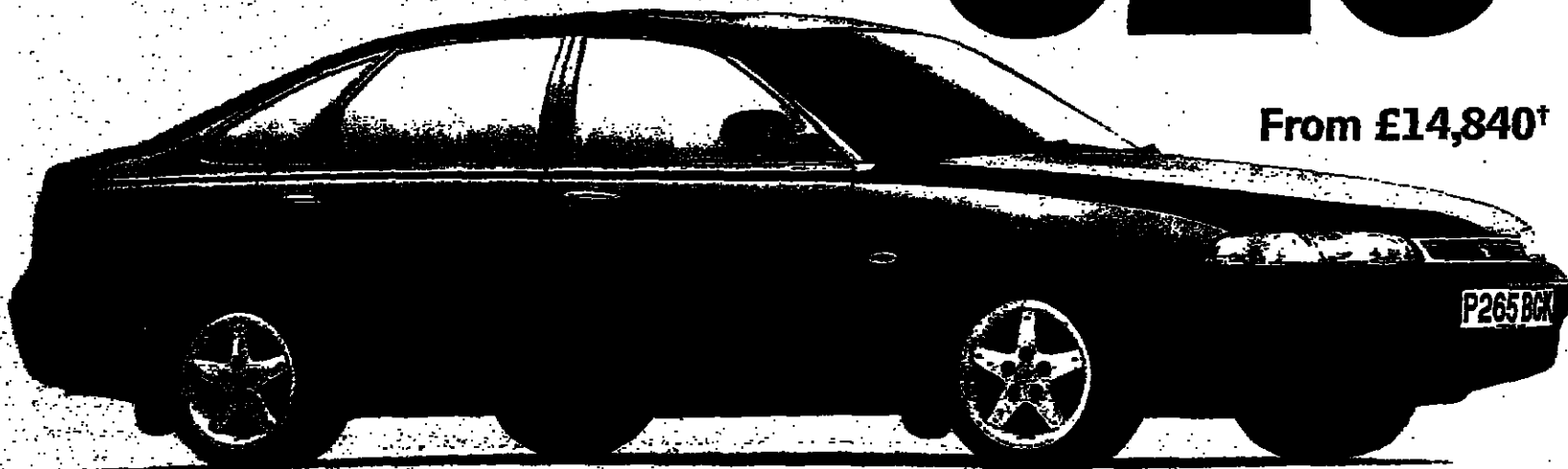
Oldham found playing ten men as difficult as a full complement and continued to pass the ball sideways or to an opponent. Towards the end, Portsmouth suggested that they might piff a goal, but the match ended goalless.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC (4-4-2): G Kelly - C Fleming, R Graham, S Redmond, C Sarrar - P Roberts, T O'Connor (sub: N Sarge, 75), N Henry, D Bennett - S Eatch, I Omondou. PORTSMOUTH (3-4-2-1): A Flahaven - A Thomson, R Pott, A Whitbread - D Hillier, J Durrant, A Axford, S Igoo - J Carter (sub: R Pott, 65), A Turner - L Brackley (sub: D Burton, 65). Referee: G Frankland.

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Passion in the suburbs adds weight to 'non-event'

To return to Enfield's football ground after a gap of 11 years, I think, 19 years, I saw Enfield, in fourth place in the Ics League premier division, receive a visit from the leaders, Yeovil Town, and dispatch them 3-0.

The Southbury Road ground is also the home of Saracens, one of the leading rugby clubs in the country. If anything spelled out the difference between the importance of the sports in the national life, it was this.

Enfield are not one of the leading football clubs of the country; they are not even one of the leading non-league clubs, playing as they do in the league below the Vauxhall Conference. The facilities, small-scale but certainly comfortable enough, are at least adequate for both concerns, however.

This is a footballing nation. On Saturday, then, brimming

with memories of the colossal importance of the ancient strife of the suburbs, I saw Enfield, in fourth place in the Ics League premier division, receive a visit from the leaders, Yeovil Town, and dispatch them 3-0.

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This is a footballing nation. On Saturday, then, brimming

Simon Barnes finds much to commend on a minor stage as Enfield take on Yeovil Town

surduity, to the finest performers of the Premiership and to the lowliest of players on the park pitches you can see beyond the ground. It wouldn't be worth doing if it didn't matter. And after all, it is no more absurd to care about the fate of the men of Enfield than the men of Manchester.

There, striding onto the pitch, was a figure who had never dwelt long on the question of football's absurdity: Graham Roberts, looking not much more senescent than when he was a half-winning mid-field player for Tottenham Hotspur in the early Eighties; but he looked middle-aged even then.

When not engrossed in his appointed task of confrontation,

Roberts would make occasional forays upfield, a practice he would charmingly refer to as "makin' me surgin' runs". At 37, he surges a little less these days, but as Yeovil's player-manager (and a former Enfield player-manager to boot) he lurks about moodily at the back.

He is considering his options, and is expected to make an announcement about his future, at least as a player, in midweek. Perhaps the weekend drubbing will help him to make up his mind. The thought that even he might have had enough football is, in a way, a relief.

Non-league football is a business much misunderstood by those who have nothing to do with it. It is not

quaint or charming at all. It is as brutally, absurdly serious as any other form of football.

The patterns of football remain consistent at this level, as at every level. This was a game of the managerial master-stroke: George Borg, the Enfield manager, swapped a midfield player for an attacker after half-time, played briefly with three up front, and his boldness won the day.

The dashing substitute, St Hilaire, managed to collect a mighty shove in the box, and Moran scored from the penalty with a flourish. St Hilaire then found himself adroitly positioned when the goalkeeper's mistimed punch fell to him, and he cracked the volley home emphatically. A couple of minutes later, at the end of a swaggering passing-movement, Moran himself was brought down and had another penalty. He

put that one away, too, not without relief.

Enfield are an ambitious non-league club — this being, of course, a footballing tautology. It is the task of all non-league clubs to be endlessly ambitious and always in the same place in football's scheme of things. That, after all, is the way things are meant to be. There was another non-league team I covered in those far-off Balfham and Tooting days: doing pretty well, as I recall, in the Southern League. What was their name? Ah yes, Wimbledon. I wonder what happened to them?

ENFIELD (4-4-2): A. Pope — A. Harrington, S. McGrath, S. Tully, S. Underwood — P. Moran, G. Borg (capt), S. Hilaire, S. Hilaire, J. Tully, M. Edwards — S. West (sub: D. Arnon, 80), S. Marshall (sub: D. Gellie, 80).

YEovil TOWN (3-5-2): A. Parnock — G. Roberts (sub: C. Moore, 59), R. Coulson, L. Harvey (sub: L. White, 69) — M. Ewing, C. White, G. Kemp, P. Turner, J. Gil — A. Parnock (sub: D. Biddy, 75), P. Palmer.

Referee: R. Styles.

FOOTBALL: SPIRITUAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE UPLIFTING FORCES AT WORK IN THE DARKEST DEPTHS OF SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Warming to the winter wonder land

Following East Stirlingshire is good for the heart, as Michael Henderson discovers

When Steve Coppell was rehearsing his farewell speech at Maine Road last Friday, unable to extend his professional involvement by a single kick, another beleaguered football manager was carrying on. By day, Billy Little teaches English at Graeme High School, Falkirk. In his other, slightly more public, job, he manages East Stirlingshire, who make Manchester City look like kings.

To fill the unforgetting minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run: Little would give his eye teeth for that. His players are duffers. Their position, at the bottom of the Bell's Scottish League third division, reveals as much, and history offers no prospect of improvement. In 116 years the club has won one trophy, the old second division championship, way back in 1932, and only 398 people watched their last home game. If Coppell felt engulfed by the rising waves then Little is anchored to the seabed.

East Stirlingshire have won only two league matches this season and, on the evidence of their performance at Forfar on Saturday, when they lost 3-0 in front of a crowd of 325 and had Ross Kerr sent off for dissent, it is stretching things to expect two more. Forfar, third division champions in 1995 and relegated last season, are one of the sides they have beaten.

It would not strictly be true to say that Forfar, "the Loons", were much better. "This is the worst Forfar team I've ever seen," a visiting fan pronounced shortly before the third goal went in. There was no irony intended, or sarcasm. These people still love their team, defects and all. To them, all is known, and all is forgiven. Each Saturday is a fresh adventure. "We're not

that bad, actually," one fan said. "We just can't score goals".

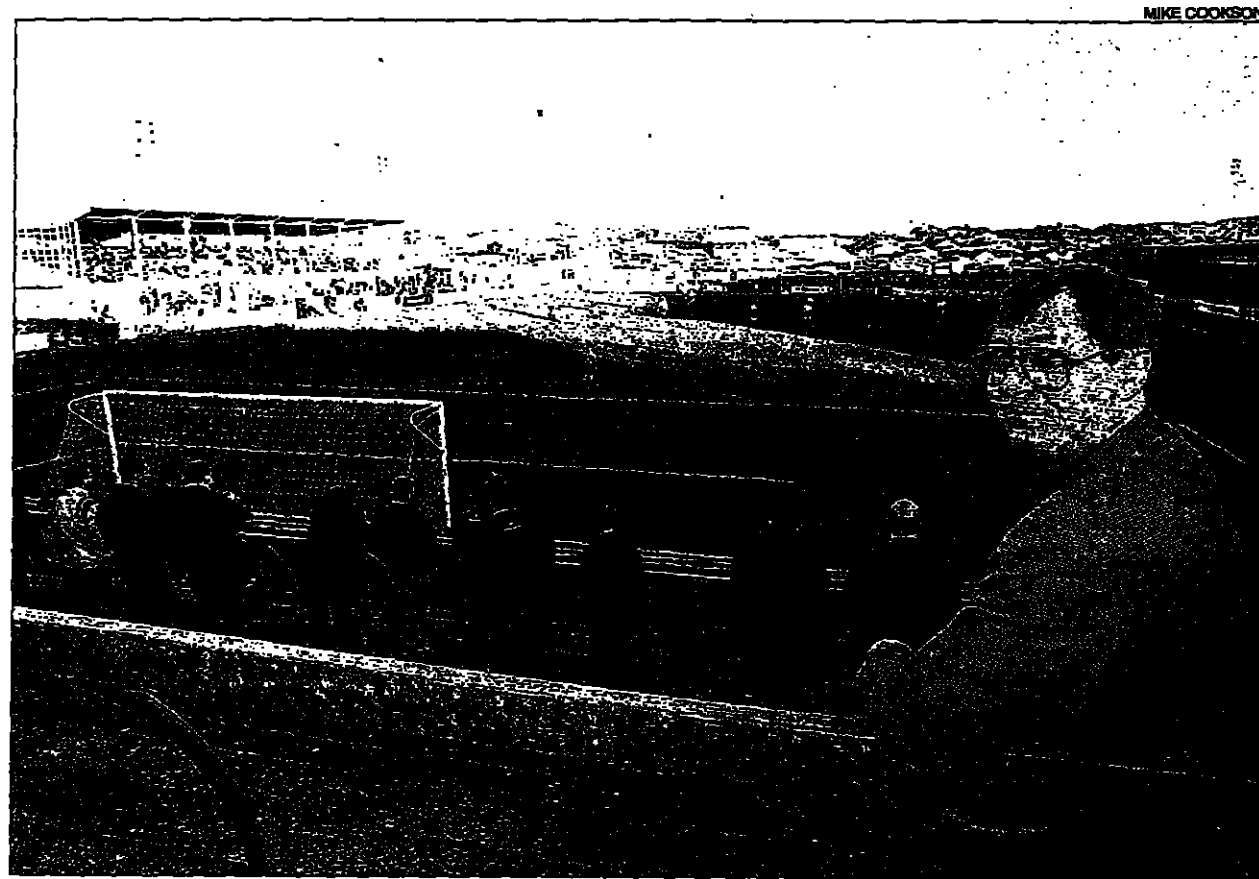
Ostensibly these part-timers belong to the world of professional sport, but it is not a world shared by the footballers who represented Scotland against Sweden at Ibrox Park yesterday. Some may graduate to a higher level. Most just carry on for the love of the game, which is nothing to sneer at in an age of rapacious agents and foul hangers-on. East Stirlingshire's players will have received £35, give or take a few pennies, for their week's work. Had they won they would have got £30 more.

So Station Park, which Forfar call home, made a bracing antidote to the weekend of World Cup football. The ground's name is a bit misleading because it is squeezed between a cattle market and farmland, with a sheep pen at one end and an industrial estate at the other.

It is the sort of place where players and supporters mingle happily after the match in the little stand that houses the dressing-rooms, munching bries and cheese, and how the big clubs have fared. Gary Mitchell, the referee on Saturday, sings with the Angus Black and White Minstrels in his spare time.

The farmland begins no more than 20 yards from the main entrance. In fact, should the barbed wire fence that separates it from the road ever be clipped, an enterprising heifer could easily wander through the turnstile by the half-time tea cabin. Whether it would wish to stay for long is another matter. There was not much here to entice a cold, lessy winter afternoon.

Alan Morgan, after being impeded by McDougall, the visitors' goalkeeper, gave For-



Michael Henderson, and 324 other hardy souls, soak up the unmistakable atmosphere of Station Park, Forfar

far the lead with a penalty in the first half. Ian McPhee increased the lead 20 minutes from time, and Iain Lee added a third. East Stirlingshire may consider themselves hard done by. Their No 11, a trialist, headed against the bar when the game was goalless and then hit the post early in the second half.

Still, none of the 36 fans in the visitors' section were complaining too much. Followers of teams this hopeless often find their love unconditional. One Shire fan, Brian Stocks, made four bus journeys to get to the game from his Edinburgh home, and the return trip occupied the better part of Saturday night. It sometimes, he wears a face like a bag of

spanners, nobody should wonder. "It's very much a social thing, supporting this club," explained Ross Strang, who cut a senatorial figure among the crowd in his tribby. He follows East Stirlingshire home and away, and was on the board until last year. You get the impression that it was a burden he was happy to relinquish.

"If I miss a match," he said, "I become intolerable on a Saturday afternoon. I missed a cup-tie earlier this season against Clydebank because I was visiting Britain for a Celtic music festival, and I spent the whole of the afternoon listening to the radio to find out the score." What was

it? "We won 5-4 on penalties. Some French television cameras caught me later that night, standing on a bar in L'Orient, singing Scottish songs."

Even when the season surrenders to summer there is no satisfying this supporter. The 13 weeks between the beginning of May and when the new season starts are awful but we have junior grade football up here, and that keeps us going into June. I hate summer Saturdays — though I'll watch a Test match if it's on the box."

This is a province of modest hopes, where the phrase "he formerly plied his trade with Queen's Park" carries some

local significance, and where locals can train with the players of a Thursday evening. If they came to, Nobody is going to come down too hard on these players, or on Billy Little when he returns to school this morning, because nothing much is expected.

Forfar are now unbeaten in five games, a good run for them, and on Saturday they are at home again, to Montrose. It will be no day for faint hearts, for a hard frost set in yesterday, but there are compensations. The view from behind the goal at Station Road, towards the snow-capped hills in the north, is marvellous.

For East Stirlingshire, snow or not, it is always winter.

Cardiff made to pay for playing on

Cardiff City 1
Fulham 2

By NOTENANT

IT IS not merely the leading clubs who go in for grandiloquent nomenclature. Even Cardiff City, who are hoping to appoint a new manager this week, can give a decent professional such as Kenny Hibbitt the title of director of football and allow him to run his own show. Never again, he says, will he allow his team to play a competitive match at a time when internationalers are taking place.

Hibbitt should have requested that this fixture be postponed, for four of his players had been a part of Wales' Under-21 squad last week. Also, there was a competing attraction in Holland yesterday. "It is asking a lot of

supporters to make the choice between watching Wales, or coming to what might prove to be one of our biggest matches of the season," he said.

Indeed, in fact, the gate, 6,144, was by some way Cardiff's biggest of the season. Hibbitt would have liked to have played the leaders at a less congested time of year, only he knew that was far from thinking. Such a time does not exist. He would have requested a postponement had his club not already taken part in fewer matches than all their fellow contenders for promotion in the Nationwide League third division.

Hibbitt, who once played with his opposite number, Mickey Adams (Fulham's mere player-manager) at Coventry City, will continue in his present role alongside a new manager, if and when one is appointed. Ian Atkins, of

Northampton Town, has denied speculation that he will be taking over at a club which, on Saturday, looked more likely to finish in the middle of the table than be promoted.

Contrast that with the confidence seeping through Fulham's expressive team, from Herrera, the long-haired left back, who like one or two others, is playing at a level beneath his capabilities, to Conroy, who has now scored 15 goals this season, more than anybody else. He is no day-dreamer; in the very first minute, he stooped and headed in Scott's long cross, instantaneously taking up the correct position.

Fulham were a further goal ahead before half-time. This also created by Scott. Weaving his way towards goal, he was shoved in the back by Perry, and Blake, the central defend-

er, scored with the ensuing penalty kick. It was a decision over which Cardiff could hardly quibble, although needless to say they did.

After that, there seemed to be scant likelihood of the result changing. It was quite unnecessary for Watson and Cusack to spend so long taking free kicks that the referee could only assume that they were wasting time. He booked the pair of them. In the penultimate minute, White did pull back a goal for Cardiff, who were at last looking a competent team, but, like their dallying over the fixture list, it was all too late.

CARDIFF CITY (3-5-2): T. Eddi — J. E. Hunt, J. Perry, L. Baskley — H. Fleming, C. Mackdon, J. Foster, I. Phillips, G. Morgan (sub: M. Barnett, 80) — S. White, C. Dale.

FULHAM (3-5-2): T. Lange — N. Cusack, D. Conroy, S. Morgan (sub: T. Angus, 76), R. Herrera — M. Conroy, R. Scott (sub: P. Brooker, 80).

Referee: T. Lunt.

Steele rediscovers his form at the right time

Woking 3
Northwich Victoria 1

By WALTER GAMMIE

BARRY FRY, the Peterborough United owner-manager, spoilt a birthday meal that Geoff Chapple, the Woking manager, was enjoying in a restaurant last Thursday night by saying that he had rejected the club's £20,000 offer for Giuliano Graziosi.

Fry's valuation of the forward, scorer of six goals in the five-match winning streak that has shot Woking from twelfth to third in the Vauxhall Conference, is £35,000, and he now returns to London Road. "I'm still interested, but it's now up to the management committee,"

Chapple said. Happily for Woking, their goals on Saturday came from another source, as Scott Steele found his elusive form. He swivelled neatly to put away a ball played in by Foster to make it 1-0 in the 33rd minute, and went down under Crookes's challenge for a penalty, converted by Walker, after half-time.

Northwich had Walters, their midfield player, sent off, but rallied to pull a goal back through a penalty by Bishop, only for Steele to pounce as Greygoose dropped a shot by Jones in the 84th minute.

WOKING (3-5-2): I. Baily — S. Wye, T. Howard, S. Foster, K. Brown, R. Taylor — S. Thompson, T. Jones — S. Steele — G. Grubb, C. Walker.

NORTHWICH VICTORIA (3-1-4-2): D. Greygoose — M. Simpson, D. Crookes, C. Duffy (sub: P. Hall, 80) — M. Hancock, D. Ward, S. Walters, E. Brown, D. Vicary — I. Cooke, L. Shale.

Referee: P. Vagg.

HOCKEY

Southgate progress in league and cup

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

SOUTHGATE'S weekend campaigning ended with two outstanding successes, a 2-1 victory over Old Loughionians in the National League on Saturday and a passage into the fourth round of the Hockey Association Cup yesterday after they had beaten Barford Tigers 2-2.

Barford Tigers got away to a fine start with Dhaminder Singh converting a short corner in the twelfth minute, but goals by Woods and Gibbins sent Southgate into the interval leading 2-1.

James Duthie increased Southgate's lead from a short corner early in the second half, but Barford Tigers never gave up the chase. In the last minute, Pripal Bhurji reduced the arrears from a penalty stroke.

Teddington, the cup winners in 1994, also qualified for the fourth round with a 3-3 home win over Havant.

It was plain sailing for other premier division clubs with Cannock, East Grinstead, Hounslow and Guildford all going through comfortably. Crutchley scored five goals for Cannock in the 13-0 victory over Croxley.

Reading took over the leadership in the premier division of the National League on Saturday after a 3-2 victory over Cannock. Wyatt, Osofor and Ashdown scored for Reading with Crutchley and Edwards, from a short corner, replying for Cannock.

Southgate's victory over Old Loughionians enabled them to share second place with Cannock and Old Loughionians. Attala scored twice for Southgate, Nick Thompson replied for Old Loughionians, but ended the day with another suspension two minutes before the end.

Slough pay for their slow start

By ALIX RAMSAY

SLOUGH are clinging on to their position at the top of the premier division of the women's national league, but, after suffering their first defeat of the season on Saturday, 3-2 away to Ipswich, they are doing so by only their fingertips.

They have never liked to play matches early in the day and, forced out of bed for a 12.30pm start, they looked half asleep for the first 35 minutes as Ipswich were allowed to run riot. Ipswich opened the scoring after two minutes, when Kirsten Spencer had a second bite at a penalty corner. Sarah Bamfield made it 2-0 20 minutes later and, just before half-time, Spencer converted another corner.

Ipswich tried to protect their lead in the second half, but defence has never been their strongest suit and the momentum slowly began to change.

Slough got their breakthrough after 41 minutes, Karen Brown scoring from a penalty stroke, and, after Julie Robertson scored their second with five minutes to go, Slough piled forward in search of the equaliser.

Ipswich may wish to make a special award to Annette Strange for devotion above and beyond the call of duty. With yet more trouble brewing around the Ipswich goal, she launched herself at the ball and was felled by a ferocious shot. The danger was averted, but Strange may not be cycling to work for a few days yet. The win puts Ipswich level on points with Slough, who keep pole position by virtue of their better goal difference.

Results, page 34

Straight
from your
screen

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, on Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie's gentle revolution at Lord's

President campaigning for a ministry of fun

It is fashionable to bring down the people in authority through malicious gossip about their past and there is a myth circulating that, way back in 1961, the new president of MCC ascribed his cricketing philosophy to "wine, women and song". An ugly lie, of course. Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie actually made the remark in 1958.

Revision of his image goes no further than dates. He is 63 now, semi-retired and with a look of comfortable, well-groomed affluence, but Ingleby-Mackenzie is the same man that he always was, defiantly disinclined to regret the remarks and reputation that have adhered to him for almost 40 years.

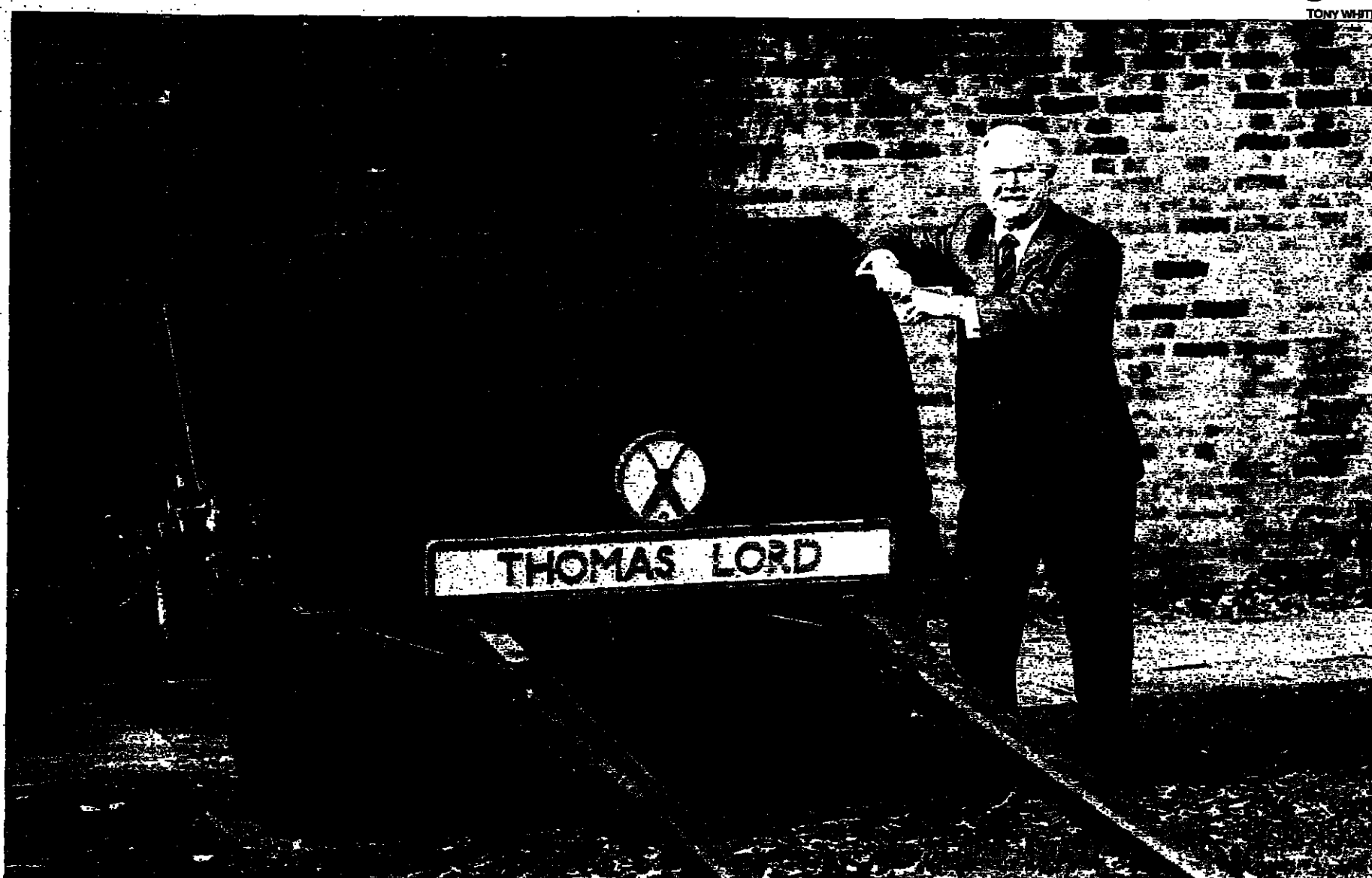
"Why should I regret it? That line reflects my character pretty faithfully," he said. "I have always been frivolous about the game because I have wanted people to enjoy it. It probably made me an unlikely candidate for this post. Personally, I am positively amazed to find myself president."

He has been in office for six weeks and has faced some early trials of character, indications of the conflicts that lie ahead. Vast changes are imminent at Lord's, architecturally and philosophically. The redevelopment of the ground may coincide with another vote on accepting women members. As one would expect from his previous sayings, it is the sort of challenge from which Ingleby-Mackenzie will not shrink.

His infamous quote was uttered as he attempted to lead Hampshire to the county championship in his first season as captain. They eventually came second, Surrey taking the title for the seventh successive season, but, by the time that Hampshire went one better, in 1961, the style and outlook of their leader was known to all.

"Few captains," opined Wisden in 1959, "have made so promising a start... the spirit of enterprise and the insistence on all-out attack were Ingleby-Mackenzie's personal contribution. On occasion, he threatened to overstep the bounds into recklessness..." Again, a testament to his career, indeed to his life, with which he has no quarrel.

"I spoke about wine, women and song in an interview at a time when there was an element of nervousness in the camp, which was unusual. We had the unassailable



High roller: Ingleby-Mackenzie has rarely missed a gamble throughout his life, but there is an increasing air of certainty about his presidency of the MCC

target in our sights and it was hard for me to keep the fun momentum. So, when I was then asked what rules I laid down to the players, I said that I always made sure they were in bed by breakfast-time."

He was never an exceptional player. His left-handed batting owed more to a sharp eye, strength and self-belief than to classical technique. "Most of his runs were made with a cross bat," Wisden

soiled. He was an amateur by ethos and agreement. "I played purely for fun and I believe there

are those, with talent, who would do so today," he said.

For his role models, he points to Denis Compton, Keith Miller and Roy McLean. "They are my greatest cricketing friends and I speak to each of them every week, but I also admire the way they played," he said. "People went to watch them, and it didn't matter what the teams were, or the venue or occasion."

A man who shared Ingleby-Mackenzie's gregarious nature shaped his business career. "Bryan Valentine, who played for Kent and

England, was my mentor in the insurance business," he said. "He was all fun and gin and tonics and I learnt a great deal from him." Working initially under Valentine, Ingleby-Mackenzie advanced to chair the Holmwoods' company, specialists in education insurance.

For the past 20 years, he has served on various MCC committees, but it never entered his head that he might graduate to the presidency. "I am a risk man," he said. "I find the gamble exciting, whether in business or on the

racetrack, and some people may think Oliver Popplewell took the biggest risk of his life when he put me up to succeed him."

The new man has some distinct advantages. One is geographical, as his back garden borders Lord's. His main asset, however, is his effervescent personality, which will provide the best conceivable public relations for a club of perpetual influence and distinction as it confronts inevitable problems in its efforts to modernise.

On October 16 he faced the

members for the first time at a meeting designed as a forum for their grievances and fears. "I was very twitchy," he said. "I thought it could turn into the shortest presidency ever. Standing up to speak was as bad as going in to bat at Lord's for Eton at the age of 15 — the same dryness of the throat."

He sailed through, of course, leaving his audience charmed. The controversial new media centre was debated — as it will be again before a special general meeting next month — along with the

'I have always been frivolous about the game because I wanted people to enjoy it'

subject of women. "But only," the president said, "in the same breath as the old chestnut about smoking in the Long Room."

Not that Ingleby-Mackenzie underplays the impact of the women's issue. Indeed, independent of the Sports Council expressing its view that National Lottery funds were inappropriate for a sexist club, he revived the subject himself by suggesting, in his first newsletter to members: "It is time this matter was introduced and we must not be frightened by the opposite sex." He has now set up a five-man working party, which will report to the committee this month. "If they recommend it, we shall put it to a members' vote," he said.

The president pointed out that a two-thirds majority would be needed to admit applications from women and that they would still face a wait of up to 15 years. "There will be no queue-jumping, although personally I think it would be a good idea if a few selective honorary memberships were offered," he said. "First, though, I want the whole issue aired. It is five years since there was last a vote and I hate things festering under the carpet."

Ingleby-Mackenzie believes that he is well protected, as a travel through the MCC committee register will confirm. "Whether it is cricket, property, finance, legal matters or marketing, I have good men on hand," he said, "and I have the secretary, Roger Knight, next door, so there is no excuse for a lack of communication."

"One of the greatest honours is to have an Australian tour during my time, but there are many challenges to face. It is a short innings, though I am well used to those, and I will certainly not be changing my approach. If I suddenly became very responsible, people would be shaken to the core."

CRICKET

Gatting's pleas unheeded

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ADELAIDE

ENGLAND A discovered the wisdom of Mike Gatting's warnings about the competitiveness of Australian cricket after finishing the third day of their tour match with South Australia on the brink of defeat.

Gatting, the England A coach, has spent long hours with his 14-strong party preparing them, but that well-meaning advice failed to prevent his charges from capitulating yesterday.

Dean Headley, the Kent fast bowler, had strengthened his claims for a full England place with an outstanding spell in which he used variety, pace and bounce to claim the final four South Australia wickets

and finish with six for 60. It earned England A an 18-run first-innings lead.

Four hours later, however, Headley was needed to bowl again after England A were dismissed for 151, leaving South Australia, the Sheffield Shield holders, needing just 170 for victory, a target that they had reduced by six without loss at the close.

Peter McIntyre, the leg spinner, who returned from Australia's tour of India a day before the match, was the architect of England A's spectacular demise with a spell of four wickets for five runs in 21 balls.

Bowling in tandem with Bradley Young, the left-arm

spinner, who claimed three for 29, McIntyre ensured that England A's last seven wickets fell for 29 runs in 17.4 overs and left them almost certain to lose a first-class match for the first time since being beaten by Natal in January 1994.

Mark Butcher fell for only 17, trapped leg-before by Mark Hatfield's in-swinging yorker, and Michael Vaughan and Anthony McGrath, the Yorkshire batsmen, fell in successive overs to Joe Scuderi after a plucky 42-run partnership for the second wicket.

It was an ill-advised drive to mid-off by Adam Hollis, the captain, who had hit Young for three fours in the same over, which sparked the tumble of wickets.

Owais Shah, who had played unconvincingly against the all-spin attack, edged McIntyre to Jamie Siddons at slip five overs later, and South Australia needed no further invitation to run through England A's brittle batting order.

McIntyre bowled Mark Ealham and Warren Hegg was given out after apparently playing and missing a ball that bounced out of the gloves of Tim Nielsen, the wicket-keeper, and was caught by Siddons. The dismissal in identical fashion of Ashley Giles gave Australia's deputy leg spinner four wickets in as many overs.

Young completed the rout when Craig White edged to Siddons, giving him his fourth catch of the innings, and Headley was caught in the deep by Jason Gillespie.

Britain drifting in unsponsored waters

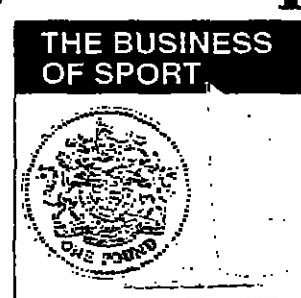
Norway has one, Sweden has three, Australia has one and supermodel Elle MacPherson will be sailing on it. The United States has one, Canada has one. Even the Ukraine has one, and it is up to its ears in debt. Yet, as you read this, it is likely that, when the Whitbread Round the World Race, the British-originated and British-sponsored grand prize of ocean yachting, starts in Southampton on September 21 next year, it will lack a serious British competitor for the second race running.

How has this come about? Do we lack top yacht people? No. In Lawrie Smith, who has been contracted to captain one of the Swedish EF Education boats, and Gordon Maguire, who is looking for finance but now has signed for Smith's crew, we have two world-class sailors ready to skipper British entries. Do we lack the capabil-

ity to build a top yacht? Not at all, the specifications are ready for an entry. The problem is the perennial British bugbear of finance. No British company seems prepared to put its hand in its pocket to finance a challenge.

Amazingly, there are 14 British entries sailing in the BT Global Challenge, the semi-professional round-the-world race, but this is a different kettle of fish. For a start, most of the crews have paid for their berth, either out of their own pocket, or through company sponsorship. The sums are much smaller, the cost for sponsors is around £500,000 a boat. Yet, in yachting terms, the BT Global Challenge is the Vauxhall Conference compared with the Premiership, which is the Whitbread.

To mount a proper entry for the Whitbread, a sponsor needs to put up at least £5



million. This appears to pander to the historic image of yachting sponsorship, once described as like "tearing up £50 notes in a shower", but when compared with the £20 million or so that you need to be the lead sponsor for even a middling Formula One racing team, it is chicken feed.

For that £5 million, the yacht is named after your company, as was Smith's 1993-94 entry, *Intram Justicia* (ironic that the nearest thing to a British entry had been sponsored by a Dutch company run by Scandinavians).

The yacht will have a big event surrounding it at each of the nine staging posts, which are in large cities on five continents. There was a television audience of 2.6 billion in 177 countries for the last race. This one should be even larger, with BBC's *Grandstand* devoting a whole afternoon to the launch, plus a half-hour weekly programme.

A host of sponsors have been approached. Rothmans, which backed a previous British entry, is up to its ears in the Williams Formula One team. Boots, which has a worldwide pharmaceutical launch, looked keen, before the plans were rejected at board level because the company had previously had bad experiences in sports sponsorship.

James Dunning, the managing director of International Sponsorship Management, has been attempting to drum up finance for a boat skippered by Maguire. This entry is at least at the eleventh hour, as it would take five months to build the yacht and a similar amount of time to train the crew.

There is a ray of hope. Silk Cut cigarettes may be prepared to put up the money for an all-British entry led by Smith, whose crew is thought to be contracted to him rather than to EF Education. The challenge would be timed to coincide with the impending float on the Stock Market of Gallahers, Silk Cut's owners, which is being sold by its parent, American Brands. Even the sticking point that Smith is a famous smoker of Benson and Hedges should not be too much of an issue, that brand is owned by Gallahers as well.

JASON NISSE

ROWING: PINSENT'S LATE DASH FOR VICTORY AT FOURS HEAD IS THWARTED BY CAMBRIDGE CREW

Olympians steer Leander on course for title

By MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

ON A day when the tide conditions seemed to benefit later starters, Leander retained their Fours Head title with their quadruple scull, which started at 295. The crew, which comprised James Cracknell and Rob Thatcher, the Olympic double pairing, and Ben Hunt-Davis and Richard Hamilton, from the Olympic eight, started directly ahead of a German four that won the lightweight silver medal at the world championships.

The Germans gained ground in the early stages, but better steering and

more power gave the Britons victory by 11 seconds.

British Olympic medal-winners in the line-up were edged out of the silverware. Matthew Pinsent, stroking the leading Leander coxed four, started almost at the back after a dash by tube and car, rather than the scheduled motorbike, from the Lord Mayor's Show.

"A bit panicky, and not the healthiest way to row the Fours Head," Pinsent said after his crew were beaten into second place in the coxed section, by six seconds, by Cambridge's leading crew.

The Searle brothers, gold medal-

winners at the Games in Barcelona in 1992, teamed up with Jim Walker and Graham Smith, their fellow internationals, to lead off the 500-crew flotilla in the quadruple sculls and finished sixth, all bar one of the crews that beat them coming from low starting places.

The exception was Tideway Scullers, in fourth place, with Peter Haining, the Olympic sculler and triple world champion, at bow, who finished just behind a composite crew with three Danish sculling champions on board.

Oxford replied to Cambridge's coxed four win with the best coxed performance. Oxford's winning crew

was stroked by Tim Foster, the Olympic bronze medal-winner.

Thames RC dominated the women's classes. Their winning quadruple scull, which won with ease, included Guin Batten, the Olympic finalist, and Jane Hall, the world gold and silver medal-winner.

Their winning coxed four, which was pushed close by Moscow, included Ali Gill and Ann Marie Stapleton, from the Olympic eight, and Alison Brownless, who has amassed a gold and five silver medals at the world championships.

Results, page 34

| ENGLAND A: First innings | |
|---|-----|
| M A Butcher c Sub b Scuderi | 73 |
| M P Vaughan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 2 |
| A McGrath c Nielsen b Hatfield | 9 |
| T A York c Scuderi b Gillespie | 9 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 9 |
| C Warr c Scuderi b Young | 61 |
| M A Ealham c Nielsen b Scuderi | 17 |
| N A Giles c Hatfield | 15 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 15 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 15 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 15 |
| Not out | 2 |
| Total | 294 |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 0-18, 2-27, 4-45, 5-54, 6-174, 7-191, 8-216, 9-218 | |
| OVERS: 9.1-14.1, 15-16.1, 17-18.1, 19-20.1, 21-22.1, 23-24.1, 25-26.1, 27-28.1, 29-30.1 | |
| ENGLAND A: Second innings | |
| M A Butcher c Sub b Scuderi | 27 |
| M P Vaughan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| A McGrath c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| T A York c Scuderi b Gillespie | 27 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| C Warr c Scuderi b Young | 27 |
| M A Ealham c Nielsen b Scuderi | 27 |
| N A Giles c Hatfield | 27 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| Not out | 27 |
| Total | 251 |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 0-18, 2-27, 4-45, 5-54, 6-174, 7-191, 8-216, 9-218 | |
| OVERS: 9.1-14.1, 15-16.1, 17-18.1, 19-20.1, 21-22.1, 23-24.1, 25-26.1, 27-28.1, 29-30.1 | |
| ENGLAND A: Third innings | |
| M A Butcher c Sub b Scuderi | 27 |
| M P Vaughan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| A McGrath c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| T A York c Scuderi b Gillespie | 27 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| C Warr c Scuderi b Young | 27 |
| M A Ealham c Nielsen b Scuderi | 27 |
| N A Giles c Hatfield | 27 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| Not out | 27 |
| Total | 251 |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 0-18, 2-27, 4-45, 5-54, 6-174, 7-191, 8-216, 9-218 | |
| OVERS: 9.1-14.1, 15-16.1, 17-18.1, 19-20.1, 21-22.1, 23-24.1, 25-26.1, 27-28.1, 29-30.1 | |
| ENGLAND A: Fourth innings | |
| M A Butcher c Sub b Scuderi | 27 |
| M P Vaughan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| A McGrath c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| T A York c Scuderi b Gillespie | 27 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| C Warr c Scuderi b Young | 27 |
| M A Ealham c Nielsen b Scuderi | 27 |
| N A Giles c Hatfield | 27 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| A J Hoggan c Nielsen b Hatfield | 27 |
| Not out | 27 |
| Total | 251 |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 0-18, 2-27, 4-45, 5-54, 6-174, 7-191, 8-216, 9-218 | |
| OVERS: 9.1-14.1, 15-16.1, 17-18.1, 19-20.1, 21-22.1, 23-24.1, 25-26.1, 27-28.1, 29-30.1 | |

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RACING: CHAMPION TWO-MILE CHASER ECLIPSED BY OUTSIDER

Klairon Davis returns to find sting in the tail

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT LEOPARDSTOWN

KLAIRON DAVIS, the champion two-mile chaser, made an inauspicious seasonal debut when beaten in a three-horse race at Leopardstown yesterday at odds of 3-1 on. The setback completed an unhappy eighth day for Ireland's leading two-milers: Sound Man was defeated in a three-runner contest at Navan last weekend when sent off the 4-1 favourite.

Klairon Davis was giving 21lb to his two rivals in the Connemara Handicap Chase but, despite not being fully tuned up, it was a surprise to see him fall by half a length against the outsider, Fiftyfivesix.

Francis Woods moved Klairon Davis up to challenge on the turn in as Brockley Court faded, but just as the

expected scene was about to be played out, Charlie Swan crossed another run from Fiftyfivesix, who held the favourite despite Woods' frantic efforts. "Somebody had to come and take him on," said Enda Bolger, the winning trainer, said.

Arthur Moore was not over-

Nap: ARANTXA
(1.50 Folkestone)
Next best: Mariner's Mirror
(1.30 Carlisle)

ly despondent with Klairon Davis's reverse and will send him to Sandown on December 7 for the Tingle Creek Chase. "He was too fresh and well but he had a good blow. I am pleased with the way he jumped."

Sound Man is also a pos-

sible runner in the Tingle Creek, a race he won last year. Edward O'Grady, his trainer, reported that the gelding has emerged in good shape from his failure at Navan, where he was easily beaten by the Murphy's Gold Cup entry, Anabatic.

On a busy weekend in Ireland, Danoli failed to impress in his second chase when winning over two miles at Naas on Saturday. Tom Foley's charismatic charge ran out the 2½-length winner from Crossfarnogue, but those backers who took the 7-2 on about the favourite had some uncomfortable moments.

Danoli was settled early by Tommy Treacy and had only two of his nine rivals behind with a circuit to go. Despite a mistake five fences out, Danoli tracked the leaders into the straight but almost immediately was being hustled along by Treacy and started to hang

to his left. Danoli demonstrated characteristic courage to win, leaving Foley not unhappy with the victory.

"He is still learning and it doesn't matter if he doesn't win by 20 lengths. A short head will do me any time," Foley said. "I am delighted that he is still able to come

Peter O'Sullivan, whose distinctive tones have called home the winners for nearly fifty years, has decided to retire after the Glorious Goodwood meeting next July.

from behind and win over two miles and those were not bad horses he beat."

The trainer would not commit himself but a clash with old rival Dorans Pride in the Drimmore Chase at Fairyhouse on December 11 is next on the cards for Danoli.



Castle Sweep drops a Champion Hurdle hint by winning at Chepstow on Saturday

Owners pay price of unjust taxation policy

Farewell, then, to the 1996 Flat Turf season, which draws to an inglorious conclusion at Folkestone today. It was an ordinary season on the equine front, but the real fireworks were ignited by the sport's personalities. It was the year of Frankie Dettori's seven-timer at Ascot, and the compelling duel between Henry Cecil and Saeed bin Suroor for the trainers' title.

It was also the year when many of Britain's largest owners reared up at the poor cost-to-reward ratio of keeping a horse in training. Sadly, the pleasure of owning a racehorse will be lost if the financial equation is paramount. All owners start out in hope but disappointment is magnified when equated to cost. They must write off their investment and treat any dividends as bonuses.

This approach is largely dictated by excessive government taxation on betting. Irrespective of the bookmakers' role in racing's sorry finances, the sport's argument for relief is strong. When the Chancellor delivers his Budget later this month, it is vital that racing benefits directly from any cut in General Betting Duty. The

JULIAN MUSCAT



Racing Commentary

amounts would barely dent the huge deficit annually accrued by owners, yet that is secondary to the flip of government recognition of racing's cause.

It is not just owners who bear the brunt of Britain's inequitable taxation policy. This season demonstrates that racing's enthusiasts are short-changed, a message evident in the fate of Britain's best performers in 1996. A racehorse reaches its peak when it triumphs in a championship race. Of the 17 individual British group one winners this year, 11 have been retired or sold to race abroad. We will never see them race again.

This frustration has plagued British racing for decades. One can identify with those who cannot see the point of diverting a freshly proven horse from the race track, but it is all to do with the necessity of owners to cash in their bonuses. Only then can they bring some sense to their financial investment in racing to the detriment of the sport as a whole.

Further analysis of this year's group one winners illustrates how owners follow this creed. Of the 17, seven were owned by individuals from outside the Middle East. All except First Island and Bijou D'Inde have been retired or sold. Once a racehorse maximises its value, only Arab owners can afford to risk their "asset" depreciating by keeping it in training. Among Arab-owned group one winners in Britain this year, only Shaamit, Mark Of Esteem and Hailing have been retired to stud. Bosra Sham, Classic Chance, Ikmal, Lady Camilla, Chantrelle, Swain and Soviet Line are to race on.

It is dangerous to racing's future if philanthropic Middle East influence masks the underlying financial problems. British ownership will be integrated further, and there is always the chance the Arab involvement may move on.

Racing is an international industry. Comparisons of ownership cost-to-reward ratios with other racing nations are valid and why a more forceful campaign from racing's rulers — and a more sympathetic ear from government — are needed.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Doncaster

12.20 (1m) 1. Polar Flight (J. Weaver) 3-1; 2. Savannah (J. Taylor) 3-1; 3. Leading Note (J. Taylor) 3-1; 4. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 5. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 6. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 7. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 8. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 9. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 10. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 11. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 12. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 13. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 14. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 15. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 16. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 17. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 18. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 19. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 20. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 21. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 22. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 23. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 24. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 25. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 26. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 27. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 28. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 29. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 30. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 31. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 32. M. J. J. (J. Taylor) 3-1; 33. M. J. J. (J. 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RUGBY UNION: SMITH BORROWS ENGLAND'S TRADITIONAL TACTICS TO CREATE ANOTHER DAY OF FRUSTRATION FOR MURRAYFIELD CROWD

Australia discover northern comforts

Scotland 19
Australia 29

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

HOW is it that, at a time when British rugby in general, and England in particular, is going misty-eyed about the southern-hemisphere game, Australia can arrive at Murrayfield and win by playing a game that closely resembles that purveyed by England in recent years? Perhaps it is just a case of needs must when the devil of success drives.

Australian rugby, at international level, has been becoming more dominated by the set-piece even before the demise of Bob Dwyer, their coach. Now, Greg Smith, his successor, needing to build the confidence of a young team, is putting pragmatism before style. In the heat of the southern-hemisphere kitchen last summer, Australia came third behind New Zealand and South Africa. Now that he is away from the spotlight of his own countrymen, Smith can concentrate on putting together a series of international wins as he remoulds the national team.

He will have been encouraged by the reaction of his

Full results and league tables Page 34

players to a victory that was worth more than ten points, given that Scotland's final try should not have been allowed. Joe Roff having pounded Tony Stanger into touch before the ball could be grounded. The Australia dressing-room was quiet. There was no exultation, just a warm appreciation of the work that needs to be done to raise standards before meeting Ireland and Wales.

The Royal Bank International on Saturday offered an Australian XV playing effectively within its limits, which was why Richie Dixon, the Scotland coach, was moved to admit that "it was like playing England." As has been so often the case against England since 1990, the Scots came away disappointed, their less-than-capacity crowd of 51,000 muted.

With their set-piece game so fragile, the back division could only flirt with the ball-in-hand policy that David Johnston, the assistant coach, is so keen to implement. So much, however, revolves around Gregor Townsend, and it was hard to argue that the restoration of the Gary Armstrong-Craig Chalmers link at half back was a complete success. They could not find each other with the acuity of old and Bryan Redpath, in his brief minutes on the pitch near the end, showed just why he may yet be the scrum half for the five



A determined thrust into the heart of the Australia defence by Armstrong, the Scotland scrum half, is brought to a shuddering end by Roff

nations'. Armstrong has, in any case, damaged a rib and may not be available for the international with Italy on December 14.

The best-balanced of the four half backs was David Knox, not so much for what he achieved as an individual but for his decision-making. Whether Australia are right to use Pat Howard on the inside break so frequently is a matter for Smith to consider. He has Tim Horan at his disposal and the injured Jason Little may yet contribute to this tour.

Smith's strictures about

refereeing did not stand up to scrutiny. That the game, in perfect conditions, never achieved the flow that both sides wanted was as much because of player-error as Patrick Thomas's interpretation. "It's very difficult to produce a marketable product if the person in control just keeps stopping it," Smith said. "The referee has to take some responsibility for the product."

Many teams have found it hard, historically, to free ball at ruck and maul against Scotland, which was why Burke had the opportunity to

kick five penalty goals from seven attempts and Rowen Shepherd only three from four. From the moment when Australia achieved a 19-6 interval lead, Scotland looked unlikely to stem the tide.

They had neither the weight to stop Waugh driving over from a maul that followed a close-range lineout, nor the height and athleticism to stop Eales dominating the lineout. As a variant, Australia frequently used Finegan, the flanker, at the front of the lineout before he achieved his own little footnote in history —

becoming the first player in international rugby to be officially substituted. He was replaced by Brett Robinson, his Australian Capital Territory captain.

"We were lacking a bit of pace in the back row and Robinson is an open-side flanker," Smith said, his decision paying off four minutes later when Robinson contributed to the move that led to Herbert's try. That soothed the minor crisis created by sustained Scottish pressure, which led to a fine try by Logan.

In the first half, Townsend twice unpicked the midfield and was irritated with his knock-on when halfway through a gap. Had he produced a morale-boosting try at that stage, a different game might have developed.

That, perennially, has been Scotland's problem at the highest level. The taking of chances is what distinguishes the achievers from the might-have-beens. "We have no one to blame but ourselves," Dixon said, which is why there is so much concern in Scotland that the structure of improved club and district competition should be put in place as quickly as possible.

SCOTLAND: Tries: Logan, Stanger. Penalty goals: Shepherd (3). Australia: Tries: Waugh, Herbert, Connolly, Burke (2). Penalty goals: Burke (2). SCOTLAND: R J S Shepherd (Melrose); A G Stanger (Glasgow); G P J Townsend (Northampton); B R S Ebbeson (London Scottish); C M Chalmers (Melrose); G Armstrong (Newcastle); D I W Wilson (Bath); W W McInnes (Glasgow); D D Stewart (Edinburgh Academical); M I Wallace (Glasgow); H G D F Green (Widzew); G W Wainwright (1st XI Smith (Glasgow); E W Wainwright (Bath); Armstrong replaced by B W Redpath (Melrose, 77th).

AUSTRALIA: M Burke (New South Wales); T J Horan (Queensland); D J Herbert (Queensland); P W Howard (Australian Capital Territory); J W Roff (ACT); D J Knox (ACT); S J Payne (NSW); R L L Henry (NSW); M A Foley (Queensland); T Stanger (NSW); D Fraser (ACT); W W Waugh (NSW); J A Eales (Queensland); captain, D J Wilson (Queensland); D T Murray (NSW). Program replaced by B J Robinson (ACT, 65). Referee: P Thomas (France).



Australia's forwards give Payne, the scrum half, the time to get away another pass at Murrayfield on Saturday

Clement's ill fortune strikes once again

ANTHONY CLEMENT, the Swansea full back, had an operation on his Achilles tendon after his club's defeat by Ebbw Vale in the Welsh League on Saturday.

Clement, 29, capped 37 times by Wales, has been increasingly injury-prone despite having made two tours with the British Isles, to Australia in 1989 and New Zealand in 1993. This latest blow is almost certain to put him out for this season.

Wales should, however, have the services of Scott Quinnell, whose agent, Mike Burton, has reached agreement with the Welsh Rugby Union after a series of wrangles over the contractual value of players who work outside Wales. Quinnell, the Richmond No.8, could receive a match fee of £5,000, with a similar bonus on top of a £10,000 retainer.

English clubs have been warned by Tom Wacker, the chief executive of the International Rugby Football Board, that failure to release players for international duty could result in disciplinary action. "The regulations are quite clear on the matter," Wacker said. "National sides take precedence. Clubs are not to block players."

Nick Poppell, the Ireland loose-head prop, will miss the international against Western Samoa at Lansdowne Road tomorrow. Poppell has a hamstring injury and his place goes to Henry Hurley, of Moseley.

WESTERN SAMOA: Ireland: Lansdowne Road, tomorrow, 7.30pm. Australia: 1st XI Smith (Glasgow); E W Wainwright (Bath); Armstrong replaced by B W Redpath (Melrose, 77th).

Oundle thrive in good company

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

MELLOW buildings of soft, grey limestone give the centre of Oundle — situated some 13 miles southwest of Peterborough — a dignity worthy of a community that has been housed in this market town since Saxon times. Foremost is the 20th-century spire of the parish church that rises from clusters of stone houses divided by a labyrinth of narrow alleys and courtyards, and during the academic year those thoroughfares are alive with the scurrying of pupils from Oundle School.

Thriving on a residential "house" system, the school dates back to 1485, but cites 1556 as the most significant date in its history, the year when Sir William Lorton, a pupil at Oundle Grammar School at the end of the 15th century who went on to become Master of the Worshipful Company of Grocers and Lord Mayor of London, left, in a codicil to his will, property in London to the Grocers' Company on condition that it "supported a school in Oundle".

Sir William was not to know that "support", 439 years later, could also mean following the fortunes of a rugby team, but, on Saturday, the day of the 1996 Lord Mayor's Show in the City of London, that was the form that it took as perhaps 200 of the school's 820 pupils vociferously witnessed a thoroughly deserved 20-5 victory over Gresham's, from Holt, in Norfolk.

The result, as well as bringing Gresham's run of ten consecutive wins to a halt in what they willingly admit is their "cup final", extended Oundle's sequence this term to six victories and one draw in seven matches and continued the encouraging start to

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

John Oliver's career as sports administrator there.

Oliver, the former Harlequins captain, Northampton hooker and seemingly perennial England number two No 2 while Brian Moore filled

the jersey, took up his post at the beginning of this term and, when asked at his interview whether he could improve on the high standard set by Terry Cobner, his predecessor, answered, obviously appealingly: "Yes — carried the two fixtures lost by Oundle last season."

Cobner, the former British Lion who was headhunted by the Welsh Rugby Union for the post of director of rugby this time last year, won 19 caps as a fearless flanker and was going to be a hard act to follow, but, as the three caps that Oliver garnered testify, he is no stranger to a challenge.

The head [David McMurtry] was insistent that



Tucker provided a platform for victory against Gresham's

Scotland make a song and dance of switch to open era

Mark Souster on the national team that continues to play catch-up rugby

So the depressing statistics continue as do the lame excuses. As one journalist succinctly summed up the situation, Scotland's pre-Christmas record is worse than anything Mud or Slade ever produced. They, at least, got to No 1, while the Scotland hopes of achieving such a lofty position appear non-existent. They are still bubbling under the top five and, judging by this performance, ambitions of rising in the charts appear slim. Not even a pre-match concert by The Proclaimers, on the comeback trail themselves, could help.

Remember, remember Scotland's appalling November: mind-numbing defeats by New Zealand and South Africa in 1993 and 1994, a tame and fortunate draw against Western Samoa and now this, a defeat less damaging in terms of the scoreline but perhaps greater in significance. This was supposed to be the occasion when everything clicked, especially as Australia are not world-beaters; professional players in the professional era, full-time meaning just that. No distractions. Wrong.

There have been distractions. Contract negotiations have overshadowed preparations. Players who, in an ideal world, should have signed on the dotted line in September, found themselves poring over the small print of offers from the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) rather than tactics. It is not their fault, just that they have been the victims of circumstance.

While the union has been putting the behind-the-scenes structure in place, the basic nuts and bolts that are of a direct relevance to the players have been neglected. There does not, as yet, appear to be any co-ordinated approach between the SRU, the districts and the clubs. No doubt, this will come in time, but so far the players have found themselves dancing to different tunes from different coaches. They have suffered as a consequence.

Despite this, hopes were high that exposure to the melting-pot of European Cup rugby would be the ideal preparation for the contest and, in terms of fitness, it was.

There was no lacking in enthusiasm and commitment, but, for the last hour, Scotland were playing catch-up rugby, a fact that their commendable second-half comeback could not disguise.

They were comprehensively dismantled up front by an Australia tight five and therein lies the fundamental problem. Until Scotland can rediscover their tough scrummagers in the mould of Iain Milne or Sandy Carmichael, they will always struggle, more so with the greater emphasis nowadays on the set-piece. Jim Telfer, the SRU director of rugby, was only half-joking when, during the summer tour to New Zealand, he suggested that the answer could be to import some Maoris into the Highlands and set up a special breeding programme. One awaits with interest the results of a recent strong prop competition supervised by the powers-that-be, who are digging through the lower divisions of the league in the hope of unearthing a rough diamond who could be recruited and polished before being sent out to shine in the international arena.

With the benefit of that wonderful commodity, hindsight, the decision to stunt Gregor Townsend, the author of many of Scotland's recent hits, was wrong. Australia were certainly staggered by the switch which, on paper, made sense, given Craig Chalmers's sparkling early-season form. Townsend, the captain, pulled the strings when he could and, when Scotland hit a high note, Townsend was invariably involved — but too often he was left humming on the sidelines.

Chalmers and Armstrong looked a throwback to a bygone era; they looked and often played like strangers. Redpath, with his razor-sharp service, will surely be back to face Italy in harness with Townsend. So, too, Scott Hastings and Ian Jardine and Andy Reid.

To their credit, Scotland have found themselves in similar situations before and come good after Christmas, witness two successive flits at a grand slam. So one must not be too pessimistic.

Teichmann leads from front for Springboks

SOUTH AFRICA won the first of their two matches against Argentina in Buenos Aires on Saturday, scoring five tries in the second half for a 46-15 victory. Gary Teichmann, the successor to Francois Pienaar as South Africa captain, was the outstanding player of the match and led his team to a comfortable win.

The South Africans were playing the second match of their tour, having beaten a Rosario club selection XV on Tuesday 45-36. The second international will take place this coming Saturday, also in Buenos Aires.

The Springboks started slowly, falling behind to a try by Gonzalo Camardón after Clivey and Honiball had swapped penalty goals. But sloppy defending by Argentina allowed Andre Venter and Mark Andrews to score tries — both converted by Honiball — that gave South Africa a 17-8 advantage at half-time.

South Africa put the match out of reach of Argentina with two tries straight after the interval, one scored by Hennie le Roux, the centre, and a penalty try. Argentina scored a second try, but it proved to be academic as the Springboks ran in three late tries, the best scored by André Joubert.

Federico Méndez, the Argentina hooker who has signed recently for Bath, said afterwards that he was not overwhelmed by South Africa's performance. "I can't say that I am terribly impressed by this South African team. I think Natal could beat them," he said. "Their rugby is not very imaginative and they rely

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RUGBY UNION

BY JOHN HOPKINS

BY A CORRESPONDENT

FROM KARL JOHNSTON

BY GERALD DAVIES

By and large, though, sym-

The match had been keenly contested and was getting keener. Suddenly, mayhem broke out and, amid the wreckage, the former teammates were seen belting the living daylight out of each other. After consulting with a touch judge, Peter Bolland, the

Odd, really. Well, perhaps not so odd. The question is: to what extent should a referee take into account that, in a rough and tumble game, an outbreak of fisticuffs is quite likely to occur? An unsuspecting player may get an accident-

Dwelling on this point suggests that there was little of interest elsewhere. This is partly correct. There was general agreement that the dismissals deflated the game's early combative mood. If Ebbw Vale do not appear to travel so well away from their valley, nobody entering it can

James Griffiths's superb two-handed catching in the lineout gave Swansea the edge

SOURCES: Ebbw Vale: Tny; Hayward
Gwynedd, Harford; Penarth Gwent h.t.
Went Wrexham; goalk; Penarth Gwent
Penarth goalk; Thomas (3)

EBBW VALE: L Lewis, J Jeffries, C Price to
Bry S, Marshall B, Hayward D, Davies A,
Phillips S, Jones D, Bell K, Jones D, C
Medicott, J Lukas, B Walters, M Jones
Lukas replaced by L Banks (SfMRI), Warbur
replaced by C Ellen (68)

SWANSEA: A Clough, S Davies, M Taylor
S Gibbs, W Lloyd, A Thomas, R James
Jenkins, P Williams, C Jones, J Jones
Evans, J Griffin, P Moroney, S Davies
Moroney replaced by K Colclough (33)
Clough replaced by D Weatherly (59)

Release: P Bokland (Newport)

[illegible]

By NICHOLAS ANDREWS



Officer: Isolated

SCORES: London Scottish: Ties; Newcastle: Rayner, Connors (2); Preston: Rayner, Connors (2); Whitehouse: Connors (4). Bedford: Threlkeld, Whelan, Hovell, Peachey. Conversations: Rayer (3), Penally goals: Rayer (2).

LONDON SCOTTISH: N Robinson; A Turner, M Sye, E Rayner, S Eversley, J Blyde, S Brown, P Symonds, J Probyn, P Burnell, M Duffie, R Hunter, A Jackson, T Jenkinson, C Tartakow. Wicketry repaired by T Watson (69 min).

BEDFORD: P Rayer, P Hewitt, S Whelan, M Duffie, M O'Brien, J Probyn, S Blyde, S Brown, P Symonds, J Probyn, R Wardman, T Upper, R White, J Marshall, J Parsons. Topper replaced by M Peachey (67); Marshall (68) and Papper (69).

Reference: G Warren (Bristol).

Sale badly missed Dewi Morris, but were never really in trouble when Fowler and Baldwin, their admirable locks, were in command. Baldwin's try was typical of their performance, a clean lineout

SCORERS: Saker, Times O'Grady (2),
 Edwards, Galloway, Jones
MANU: (3) Penalty goals: Murnna (2)
 O'Reil. Try: Neilson. Penalty goals:
 Hinchmough (2)
SALES: J. McIndrord, D. Reed, J. Sweeney, G.
 O'Connell, S. Jones, J. R. O'Brien, D.
 Winstanley, S. Duncanson, A. Yates, D. Evershine,
 J. Fowler, D. Baldwin, D. O'Grady, C. Wyvian
 Stocks replaced by J. Devereux (Tinnah)
 O'Grady replaced by A. Adams (77)
O'REILLY: R. Hinchmough, P. Clayton, L.
 Tuganala, S. Seabrook, N. Heslop, S.
 Taberner & Cooke, M. Worsey, A. Moffat, S.
 Turner, P. Acheson, P. Rees, C. Cusack,
 R. O'Connell, P. Clayton replaced by R.
 Sweeney (68)
Referee: J. Steele (Suzanna)

BY MICHAEL AYLWYN

There was a lethargy to some of Coventry's approach, however, that was at odds with the tradition behind the occasion. Julian Horrobin, the No 8, is, for example, a skilled footballer, who made some



Eves: provider

[illegible][illegible]

SAILING

Goss makes light of handicaps

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

SAILING single-handed non-stop around the world is hard enough. Doing it with no radio almost from day one makes it doubly hard. In Pete Goss's case, it is depriving him of vital weather faxes and cutting him off from his fellow competitors.

Despite these handicaps, Goss has produced a fine performance in the first week of the Vendée Globe to be lying in seventh place, as the 16-strong fleet heads down towards the Canaries. Goss, whose Adrian Thompson-designed *Aqua Quorum* is the only 50-footer in the race, is a little more than 100 miles behind Yves Parlier, of France, on *Aquitaine Innovations*, the leader.

In an interview via satellite-fax from his boat yesterday, Goss admitted that the loss of his single side-band radio, shortly after the start, when he endured two days of going to windward into a gale in the Bay of Biscay, was beginning to worry him. He has tried everything to get it going, but so far to no avail.

"As time goes on, so the racing becomes more and more consuming," he said. "Unfortunately, the lack of a radio denies me the skipper's chat show, so I am missing out there — not just the race information but the company of a common cause." Later, after explaining his predicament at its failure, he added: "I feel its loss severely as I can't get any weather faxes in — cross your fingers on the radio, as I see it as pivotal."

Goss's predicament is something of an action replay of the single-handed transatlantic race this summer when he also lost use of his radio after it was flooded during a knock-down about two thirds of the way across, leaving him again short on weather information. This time, he is getting data

from the race organisers and Meteo France on his Sat-Com C, but he clearly feels at a disadvantage.

Goss had a tough start, like everyone else. While he pounded across the Biscay into 45 knots, he was continually sick and ate only one day's food in three days. "It was pretty grim — I just kept gulping water and going for it," he said. "I felt a bit punch-drunk at times, but with the wind on the nose, I got away with it. All I had to do was hold on."

Then Goss experienced the first pangs of the loneliness that all the skippers have to battle against and which will be a bigger danger to him if he is unable to restore radio contact. "After Biscay and all the humanity and frenzy of the start, I felt very displaced and had to focus on the basics," he said. "The hardest thing I have ever done is get *Aqua Quorum* to the start. At times it has haunted me."

Yesterday, Goss was making around nine knots under full main and his 265 square metre spinnaker. Behind him, there are nine 60-footers. One, skippered by Didier Munduteguy, is still in port at Les Sables D'Olonne, awaiting a new mast.

Three other skippers who each had to return to Les Sables for repairs, Nando Fa, of Hungary, Thierry Dubois, of France, and Tony Bullimore, of Great Britain, have all restarted.

Parlier, the leader, meanwhile, has abandoned his plans to stop in a river on Grand Canary to refill his fresh water containers, more than half of which have leaked and are now empty. He has no water on board *Aquitaine Innovations* and will rely instead on collecting rain off his mainsail and hope that that gets him to the finish.

Whineray head and shoulders above the rest



David Hands on the issue of leadership as de Glanville takes rugby helm

When Will Carling stepped down as captain of the England rugby union team last March, he did so after 59 appearances in the role. During his eight years at the helm, the course of the game changed fundamentally. England's profile rose like a rocket and Carling himself became one of the most identifiable sportsmen in the country — indeed, in the world, though not all of that fame was due to his rugby skills.

In the context of his sport, no man has achieved such a record of leadership. Before Carling, England's captaincy record was held by the bluff Bill Beaumont with 21; his nearest rival is Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealander, with 41. Yet, as Phil de Glanville prepares for his first game as captain, does longevity necessarily make for greatness? Certainly it is a testimony to endurance, to the respect of team-mates and management, to skills to hold down a place in a national team for so long.

Every successful captain in every sport will tell you that a great captain is part of a great team and the bigger the team — as in rugby with 15 players, as against 11 cricketers or footballers — the more things can go wrong. That Carling was part of a memorable period of English rugby history and that teams that he led achieved more than in any other period of the game is indisputable. The facts are



Farr-Jones, who is one of the best international captains of the modern era, remains a man of genuine humanity

there: three grand slams, a five nations' championship and a World Cup final.

True greatness, though, is achieved by few and England's successes over the past eight years must be set within the parameters of European rugby and those self-imposed restrictions of style that were accorded respect but seldom affection. Let alone the awesome qualities of, say, the 1967 New Zealanders or their successors of 1987 and 1996. Within those limitations, Carling performed well, but the game's historians may decide that his particular genius was in remoulding the office off the field — of bringing to it an individual quality that appealed to the reserved English character yet helped Carling onto a commercial plane which none of his predecessors had envisaged.

Sporting greatness is reserved for those individuals who win matches when the chips are down, who take ice-cold decisions in the heat of battle that change the course of events. Thus the leader by example — Jean-Pierre Rives, the Frenchman, Eric Evans, the English hooker, the rock-solid Gavin Hastings, of Scotland — will fall the ultimate test. Ireland offer a trio of longstanding hookers in Karl Mullen, Ronnie Dawson and Cianan Fitzgerald, all of them British Isles captains, but whose record of success is strictly limited.

Some may argue that Francois Pienaar, 29 times the leader of South Africa, fulfils all the criteria for sporting greatness: yet, as a player, Pienaar lacks genuine stature. His qualities shine through as being the right man in the right place at the right time. A combination of good judgment and good fortune precipitated Pienaar into the limelight and he, blessed with good looks, intelligence and diplomatic stature above and beyond the common run, acquired a charisma at a time of cataclysmic change in South Africa that will endure even longer in the circumstances of his sudden rejection by his sport's leaders. Yet we must go further south for the epitome of the great captain — to New Zealand and to Australia, who

have learnt so much in so short a time from their near neighbour. The All Blacks offer three outstanding candidates for greatness: Wilson Whineray, Brian Lochore and Graham Mourie. Had he played longer, maybe Mourie would have achieved all the necessary qualifications, but he chose not to appear against the 1981 South Africans and did not lead his country again. The palm must go to Whineray, both for what he was as a sportsman and the obvious gifts that have taken him far in New Zealand's public life since.

When a man is called upon to lead New Zealand at the age of 23, it is no accident. Whineray, a loose-head prop who played provincial rugby from 1963 to 1966, appeared 32 times for the All Blacks. He was captain on 30 times between 1958 and 1965, against the best in the world — the

1959 British Lions, the 1960 South Africans, the 1961 French and on tour in England in 1963-64, when he was chaired from the field after the final match against the Barbarians.

His teams failed on only five occasions. Terry McLean, New Zealand's greatest rugby writer, described Whineray as "highly intelligent, mature beyond his years, a most earnest student of the game, a firm but calm leader who commanded unqualified admiration. I would unhesitatingly acclaim him as New Zealand's greatest captain."

Colin Meads, a great but grim player of few words, remarked on the fierce loyalty that Whineray inspired and, after the tour to South Africa in 1960, the only losing series in which Whineray played, South Africans acknowledged that New Zealand could not have sent "a more responsible or finer character as captain."

As a player, he transcends his time: his ball skills would have made him as much at home in the game today as in his own era, and few are granted a specific tactic named after them — in his case, the "Willie away", the lineout peel and charge that others have emulated. He could play No 8 and enjoyed himself in the back row on tour on several occasions.

Whineray played with outstanding individuals — Lochore himself, Meads, Don Clarke. So, too, did Nick Farr-Jones, the Australia scrum half who may be described as the best of the modern era. It is given to few to lift rugby's ultimate prize, the World Cup, but Farr-Jones did so yet he remains a man of genuine humanity.

Farr-Jones seldom allowed his position as the pivot of the Australia team to crush his tactical awareness. True, his temper flared during the 1989 series against the Lions, but he became a truly gifted player and captain. Three years after his departure Australia are still struggling to replace him.

All great players leave a void when they have gone, which brings us back to Carling. Only when he has gone will we know his true value.

TOMORROW

David Miller, chief sports correspondent, makes his choice of the best leader to step onto a football pitch.

THE TIMES

MUSIC SHOP

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Today we launch *The Times Music Shop*, a wonderful new service to readers, in association with Virgin, a leader in the entertainment industry.

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All you have to do is call our special order line any time between 8am and 7pm seven days a week (the number will be printed on Thursday). Or, if you prefer, you can place your orders using the freepost address: *The Times Music Shop*, Freepost SCO 681.

Forbes, IV36 OBR.

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For further details of the Music Shop service see *The Times* on Thursday.



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The Times/Virgin CD track list

SPIN DOCTORS *Little Miss Can't Be Wrong* MANIC STREET PREACHERS *From Despair To Where*
CYNDI LAUPER *Girls Just Want To Have Fun* DEERHOOF *Don't Get Me Wrong*
MEATLOAF *Dead Ringer For Love* SOPHIE *Just A Little Bit More*
THE BANGLES *Manic Monday* TERENCE DICKENS *I Wish I Was Your Lover*
THE STRANGLERS *Always The Sun* DES REE *My Love*

While pounding Hampstead Heath, Oliver August set his sights on breaking a marathon barrier



It's all over, for now at least: Oliver August keeps warm after completing the New York City marathon and (right) the access ramp to the Verrazano Narrows bridge, from Staten Island to Brooklyn, the starting point of the event

Three hours, 180 minutes, 10,800 seconds. That is the sound barrier for marathon runners. The sub-three hour club isn't exclusive, world-class runners jog the 26 miles in a little over two hours. But for an amateur, a two-hour something marathon is quite an achievement.

At least that is what I have been telling myself over the past few months as I have ploughed around Hampstead Heath in the dark. My chosen location for an attempt at joining the sub-three hour club was New York, home of the hyperactive. Now I was facing the Verrazano Narrows bridge, the world's second largest suspension bridge and starting point of the New York City marathon.

How much of an uphill struggle this would be was easy to grasp. Unlike the London marathon, there were no easy-to-overtake runners dressed up as Mr Blobby or Mystic Meg. I was sandwiched between 30,000 lean Americans (I didn't know there were that many), and it seemed that getting across the starting line, let alone reaching Manhattan, was going to take more than three hours. I was cold, I was claustrophobic and I had missed the last chance to go to the toilets they still called them "bath-

rooms" even though they were stinking portable lavatories. Opposite, the world's longest urinal — 380 feet — had been erected. Unfortunately, it collapsed at one end as runners were leaving the various pre-race religious ceremonies in the warm-up area.

The start gun went off. Five minutes later I was still standing in the same spot. I overheard a conversation between two marathon veterans, almost Clinton and Dole lookalikes, one tall and talkative, the other thinner and more sceptical. Bill said: "A

marathon shouldn't hurt till the very end," Bob said: "You just push through. I guess."

How I wanted to agree with them. But my first marathon, in Leeds last spring, had taught me a different lesson. Until mile 20 I had been moving at a somewhat optimistic pace as it turned out. What happened after mile 20 I find difficult to recall because I was only just conscious enough to stay upright. The running community has coined two terms that describe what happens when your body runs out of fuel: "hitting

the wall" or simply "blowing up".

In the last six miles of the Leeds marathon I was passed by the most humiliating range of runners. One-legged pensioners still seemed to have enough breath to mutter something patronising as they hobbled past. I eventually finished in three hours 38 minutes. My second and so far only other marathon saw a decent enough improvement in my finishing time but was equally painful. I bumbled along the Thames from Windsor to Chiswick in 3 hours 14 minutes. Getting under three hours now seemed to be within my grasp.

It took 15 minutes to get over and off the Verrazano Narrows bridge. We were heading north through Brooklyn and the weather and atmosphere were warming up. Runners took off jumpers and woolly hats and tossed them into the crowd. Many runners had T-shirts with their names printed on and the crowds readily cheered "Go Ollie, Go Ollie, Go".

Thousands had come out. This was a street party as



typically American as the chocolate chip cookie. Children had lined up with their hands held out, waiting to slap a runner's hand. Their mothers looked on with baskets of food and slices of fruit for us. Meanwhile, a different band was playing on every street corner, urging the runners onwards with anything from jazz to the theme tune from the Rocky films.

More than once I felt like asking "why aren't you running?" But I was still feeling fit and well. I was logging seven minutes per mile which put me on course for my sub-three hour goal.

Running the New York City marathon must be one of the safest and most comprehensive sightseeing tours of the city. Protected by a wall of well-meaning spectators we ran through some of the poorest and most crime-ridden neighbourhoods. No tourist would dare to come here at any other time. Yet these areas reveal a surprising picture. Judging from the segregation among the crowds, the idea of America as a melting pot seems preposterous. Cubans, Mexicans, Jews, Afro-Americans, Koreans, Vietnamese, Chinese, Italians, Russians — they all occupy their own separate blocks, offering their own food and playing their own music.

The marathon as a sightseeing tour became even more attractive as we left Brooklyn at the halfway point, dipped into Queens for two miles and then crossed the East River into Manhattan. There is little that hasn't been said about the Manhattan skyline, and the view from the 59th Street Bridge, made famous in a Simon and Garfunkel song, made all the effort of getting

there on foot worthwhile.

In Manhattan along First Avenue, the crowds were even denser than in Brooklyn but some runners were already fading and starting to walk. At mile 20 a medical tent was waiting for them, with more than 50 nurses kneeling by their haggard and blistered patients. I had just passed the tent and entered Fifth Avenue in Harlem for the final stretch when my body started to rebel. I had reached "the wall": my club membership wasn't going to be cheap.

A symphony of marathon noises is all that my brain registered in the last five miles. A subway train rushing below. The never-ending it's-not-much-further shouts from the crowds. Dogs barking in the adjoining Central Park. At the water stations, the sounds of the half-full cups splashing onto the road, the squashing noise when the following runners stepped on them, and then the gentle rustling as the wind swept the empty and flattened cups across the Manhattan canyons.

The finish line announced its proximity with a deafening roar. Runners grunted, barely audible, as they crossed it. Then, silence. For the first time in 3 hours, 3 minutes and 24 seconds.

LEFT: one thing

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This was the costliest lead of 1995 in the TGR £100 game.

| Dealer West | Game all | Rubber bridge |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ♠ AK9755 ♥ J1043 ♦ 864 ♣ A94 | ♠ KJ10752 ♥ 8 ♦ A7 ♣ A97 | ♠ KJ10752 ♥ 8 ♦ A7 ♣ A97 |

| W | N | E | S |
|--------|------|--------|----------|
| 1C | 1H | 2S | 3D |
| 2S | 2D | 5H | 6D |
| Double | Pass | 6S | Pass |
| Pass | 7D | Double | All Pass |

Contract: Seven Diamonds doubled, by South. Lead: ace of spades

I think East was correct to force with Two Spades over North's One Heart. His bid of Five Hearts over North's Five Diamonds was a cue-bid. West's double of Six Diamonds was the "par" decision in a theoretical sort of way, in that East-West are off two aces in Six Spades and Six Diamonds should go down. Also West only had three-card trump support and a minimum hand, so from his point of view it looked right to double to warn his partner.

Perhaps East should not have bid Six Spades over West's double of Six Diamonds, but East rightly as it turned out, was nervous of there being an accident against Six Diamonds. Six South couldn't double Six

By Philip Howard

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| FERULAR | GALENA |
| a. To do with caning | a. A cock |
| b. Frowning | b. Lead ore |
| c. A mountain railway | c. A physician |
| GRITH | GNATHONICAL |
| a. Bran | a. Having bad breath |
| b. Vain | b. Contradictory |
| c. Sanctuary | c. Brown-nosed |

Answers on page 44

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Shirov slaughter

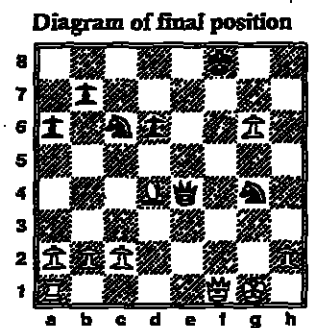
The Fomty tournament in Tilburg was responsible for the creation of a large number of outstandingly beautiful games, many of which have already been published in this column. One of the most dramatic was the game today, in which the Latvian grandmaster Alexei Shirov demolishes the world's highest ranked female grandmaster.

Shirov's play blended erudition and violence in pleasing measure. His sacrifice of a knight on move 13 was clearly advance preparation. This caused a weakening of Black's king's defences and Shirov exploited this to land a sequence of devastating tactical blows.

White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Judith Polgar
Tilburg, October 1996

Sicilian Defence

| | |
|---------|------|
| 1 e4 | c5 |
| 2 Nf3 | d6 |
| 3 d4 | cxd4 |
| 4 Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5 Nc3 | a6 |
| 6 Bc2 | e6 |
| 7 O-O | Be7 |
| 8 f4 | O-O |
| 9 Bc3 | Qc7 |
| 10 g4 | Bb8 |
| 11 f5 | Bd7 |
| 12 g6 | Nd8 |
| 13 Nxe6 | fxe6 |
| 14 h5 | g5 |
| 15 h6 | Ng7 |
| 16 Ne5 | exd5 |
| 17 Qxd5 | Kf8 |
| 18 g6 | Rh7 |
| 19 Bg6 | Bg7 |
| 20 Bxh7 | Qx8 |



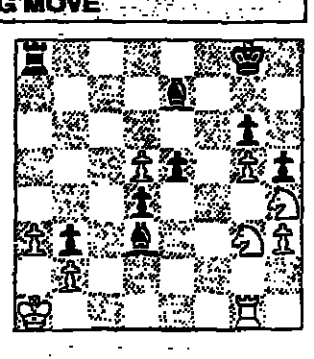
Toulouse international
Three British players competed in the category nine tournament in Toulouse. Full results were as follows: Marciano 7 out of 9; Lepelletier 6½; Flear and Haradouchi 5; Mitkov 4½; Dunnington and Elliot 4; Touzane 3½; Bricard 3; Kinsman 2½.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd tel: 01376 321276 at £5.99 plus postage and packing.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE



By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Almasi — Polgar, Tilburg 1996. White's king is horribly entombed on the queen's wing. How can the young Hungarian star make the most of this?



In training: serious runners will do an average of ten miles a day

Preparing for the big day

YOU don't think you can run a marathon? You'd rather mow the whole of Hyde Park or give Buckingham Palace a new lick of paint? Well, the secret to marathon running is the training and preparation. If you can find the necessary discipline you will be able to run a marathon as if it had been programmed into your chromosomes. Unlike football or tennis, there isn't much that can go wrong on the day. Everyone can run, all you have to do is equip yourself for putting one foot in front of the other approximately 50,000 times without stopping.

Start by jogging slowly for as long as you feel comfortable. Forget training schedules for the moment, the marathon is still a month away and you should first learn to enjoy running because you will be doing a lot of it. The key to marathon training at the more advanced stage is very simple: it's all about mileage. Serious runners will do an average of ten

miles a day but first-time marathoners should stick to 20-30 miles a week. You may want to begin with lots of short runs but ideally your body should get used to covering longer and longer distances. In between these longer runs your body will need at least one, but more likely two or three days rest.

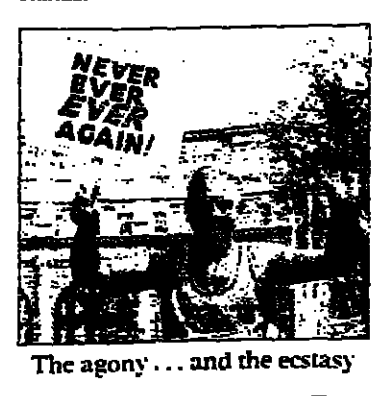
A popular training schedule in the weeks before the marathon is to do a long run on the weekend and two shorter ones during the week. Some marathon runners also like to do interval training where you "sprint" for three to six minutes, then rest for the same period and repeat this up to ten times. Another version of this is to run up a hill and jog back down several times.

Whatever you do, don't try to run 26 miles in one go during your training. The necessary recovery phase would slow your training down too much. Plus, you'll want to preserve your suspense till race day.

The best marathons in the world

TO get a start number in the New York City marathon, call the New York Road Runners' Club on 001 212 560 4455. They will tell you how to make an application as an overseas runner. If you want to increase your chances of getting a number then come to New York and hand in your application in person on a Saturday in May (date not yet set). This will almost guarantee you a place. The New York marathon is usually held on the first Sunday in November. If you can't get a start number for New York, try one of the following: Boston: very famous but quite hilly. Berlin: run across the Wall. London: the Flora London Marathon, the world's biggest. Cape Town: the most beautiful. Athens: the run that created the marathon industry.

For more details, see Runners' World magazine on most newsstands.



The agony... and the ecstasy

LAW REPORT

Court of Appeal

Court powerless to overturn judge

Ex parte Austintel Ltd
Before Lord Justice Morritt, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment October 31]

A judge's refusal to allow a company to inspect and make multiple searches of the records of insolvency proceedings was final and the Court of Appeal had no jurisdiction to consider a renewed application under Order 59, rule 14(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court nor could it grant leave to appeal against that decision.

The Insolvency Rules Committee should consider the practical and policy questions which had arisen concerning multiple searches of the records of insolvency proceedings following the computerisation of court records.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an application by Austintel Ltd under Order 59, rule 14(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court for leave to appeal against the decision of the judge.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker, Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster, refused an application to inspect pursuant to rule 7.28(2) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 the records of the insolvency proceedings of Austintel Ltd. The records were held at the Liverpool District Registry.

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"(3) The judge's decision under paragraph (2) is final."

Mr Justin Rushbrooke for Austintel; Mr Richard Snowden for the Society of Practitioners of Insolvency.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the first point was whether in the light of rule 7.28(3) of the 1986 Rules, the Court of Appeal had any jurisdiction to entertain the application.

Section 181(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 provided that no appeal lay to the Court of Appeal from any decision of the High Court or any other court which "by virtue of any provision (however expressed) of this or any other Act, is final."

Austintel contended that section 181 did not preclude the court from considering its application because the provision was not contained in an Act but in subordinate legislation.

His Lordship was quite unable to accept those submissions. The legal force and effect of subordinate legislation such as the 1986 Rules was derived from the primary legislation which authorised it.

His Lordship could see no reason why the reference in section 181(1) of the 1981 Act to "any provision (however expressed) of this or any other Act" should not extend to provisions in subordinate legislation authorised by that Act as well as to provisions physically contained in it.

It was plain from the context that the applications to the Court of Appeal envisaged in Order 59, rule 14 were those incidental to some substantive appeal whether past, pending or prospective.

Rule 14(3) could not have the effect of giving to the Court of Appeal jurisdiction to entertain an application when the jurisdiction

their application to quash the refusal of Suffolk County Council to register the Peoples Park, Sudbury as a town green.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that he had come to that conclusion having regard to the nature of customary rights as explained in *Hammerton v Honey* (1876) 24 WR 603. The unregistered green would not be deemed to be a green, as registered land would be, but it might still be proved in evidence to be a green.

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to hear a substantive appeal for the same relief was excluded by section 181(1)(c). In those circumstances, his Lordship considered that the court had no jurisdiction to entertain the application.

His Lordship expressed no view on the application's merits. One matter had become clear though. That related to whether the 1986 Rules sufficiently took account of advances in information technology.

The rules appeared to be drafted on the supposition that the records of insolvency proceedings required by rule 7.27 were contained in a large book which the person referred to in rule 7.28(1) asked a court clerk to produce for his inspection. Thus, it was assumed, the information obtainable was limited in practice to what the individual to whom it was produced could abstract while he had possession of it.

But that might not take sufficient account of the fact that the court records were being computerised and the facilities available to the searcher enabled him to match the customer list of his clients. That was a topic to interest the Insolvency Rules Committee.

LORD JUSTICE WARD, concurring, said that as the problems raised in argument seemed unlikely simply to go away and since the most energetic of rules committees was unlikely to be able to legislate quickly enough to alleviate them, he ventured to express some views, obiter and tentative though they might be.

The question was whether a search of the register of winding-up petitions made for credit-control purposes was tainted with impropriety. What had to be improper was the purpose of the search. His Lordship could not see that a search for credit-control purposes was to search for an improper purpose.

What if the search was conducted with a further purpose in mind, namely to support a petition which he might discover had been filed, in order to gain the benefits of substitution as in the event that the debt of the petitioning creditor was satisfied? His Lordship did not see that as a commercially improper step.

It was said that it was of fundamental importance that all creditors stood on equal footing and that one should not gain an advantage over another. But the register was open to all and so the playing field did not cease to be level simply because some of the players did not know how to play the game.

If an individual creditor could legitimately make a search of the register in respect of one of his debtors, he could properly inquire about all of them. If he could do it himself, he could do it through an agent.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker found that the purpose for which Austintel sought leave to inspect the register was predominantly that of abstracting the entirety of the information entered on the register and making such information available to its customers and subscribers on commercial terms.

He had held that the carrying into effect of the purpose resulted, and was intended to result, in Austintel maintaining what was for all practical purposes a duplicate of the register maintained by the court, but with the difference that whereas the register maintained by the court was subject to the court's power to control inspection conferred by rule 7.28(2), the duplicate register was outside the rules and thus outside the control of the court.

Austintel required inspection of the register to make a copy of it so that they could inform their clients, in one electronic way or another, whether the customers' names appeared, in order that they might take whatever commercial action they considered to be appropriate in the light thereof. His Lordship did not regard the purpose of the commercial exploitation of the information in that way to be improper.

What the judge appeared to have found to amount to impropriety was the consequence of their achieving their purpose, namely their having control over the whole of the information on the register when, by way of the court, was the only arbiter of when, how and to whom the records were to be disclosed.

His Lordship was not sure that eliding of purpose and consequence was a correct application of rule 7.28(2) which entitled the court to refuse to allow inspection only if it was "not satisfied as to the propriety of the purpose for which inspection is required".

The court should not abdicate responsibility for keeping control of the information on its register. If, however, the purpose for which the information was sought was legitimate, that is, collecting it as agent for onward transmission to the client only in respect of their named customers, and if the court could be satisfied that no use would be made of the other information, then the interests of the applicant and the court could be reconciled.

If terms were exacted to allow the applicant to do as much as but no more than an individual could do in respect of one or more named debtors, then his Lordship did not see why the practice should be disapproved.

Lord Justice Potter gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners; Norton Rose.

Where a vasectomy was performed upon a man, but his wife nevertheless subsequently became pregnant and gave birth to a healthy and normal child, the hospital was not obliged to pay damages for pregnancy and labour and what ever financial outlay both parents might incur, each had received the gift of a child and all of the actual and prospective benefits emotional, social and economic, that the child brought to them.

The first category of loss raised the questions of, first, whether the conception, pregnancy and labour constituted injury at all, and second, whether in consequence of the conception, pregnancy and labour, the wife had sustained any loss.

A normal pregnancy occurring could not be equated with a physical injury. Pregnancy caused discomfort, pain and sickness. Labour was acutely painful and distressing. But those were natural processes resulting in a happy outcome and because the financial consequences of the child were wholly offset by the immeasurable value of the child's existence.

Lord Gill, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, sustaining a plea to the effect that by Tayside Health Board in an action of reparation brought against them by Mr and Mrs George McFarlane and dismissing the action.

Mrs Anne Smith, QC, for the pursuers; Mr Colin Campbell, QC, for the defenders.

LORD GILL said that the pursuers averred that the first pursuer had had a vasectomy at one of the defenders' hospitals and that during subsequent tests of his sperm there had been an administrative error at the hospital in consequence of which the pursuers had been erroneously advised that they could dispense with contraceptive precautions.

They did so and the second pursuer had subsequently given birth to a daughter. They sought damages in two categories. The first related to the physical consequences of the pregnancy, namely her pregnancy and labour. The second category related to the financial consequences for both pursuers, namely, the second pursuer's alleged need to give up her job and attend to the child.

The defenders had expressly renounced any argument that the second category of loss was purely economic, or that the pursuers could have mitigated their loss by having the child aborted or placed for adoption: see *Emek v Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster AFHA* (1985) 1 QB 1012.

His Lordship's decision was confined to the agreed circumstances that the pregnancy had been normal and the child was normal and healthy.

His Lordship had surveyed decisions from a number of jurisdictions, including that of the Supreme Court of Minnesota in *Sherlock v Stillwater Clinic* (1977) 260 NW 2d 169.

It was not apparent why *Sherlock* should enjoy the status that the English courts seemed to have given it. It was only one of many diverse decisions on the point in the United States. It appeared that such an action was fundamentally irrelevant. His Lordship agreed that the question of relevancy could be decided without allowing a proof.

They had also stated a plea

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Another, Ex parte Fininvest SpA and Others

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Gage

[Judgment October 23]

Letters of request from the Italian authorities seeking assistance in obtaining documents relating to the alleged commission of an international fraud but not specifically identifying any particular transaction or activity, had not been wrongly referred to the Serious Fraud Office nor wrongly implemented by them.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing an application by Fininvest SpA, a large Italian corporation with interests in advertising, publishing and broadcasting, Mr Confalonieri, Fininvest's president and Mr Berlusconi, a former president of the corporation, its principal shareholder and, *inter alia*, from March to December 1994, Prime Minister of Italy, for judicial review of the decision of the Secretary of State for the Home Department to refer a request for assistance from the Italian authorities to the Director of the SFO under section 4 of the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990.

The Home Secretary received from the Italian public prosecutor letters of request under the provisions of the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters 1959, implemented in the United Kingdom by the 1990 Act, by which letter the Italian request for assistance in obtaining documents held by a company in London which were relevant to allegations in Italy against the applicants of a massive fraud.

Prosecutions had already begun against one of the applicants who it was alleged, had made illicit donations to a former prime minister. Such donations were illicit because they were made without authority of the corporation and without a record of Italian law required transparency of political payments.

The request was referred by the Home Secretary to the SFO under section 4 of the 1990 Act and the SFO implemented the request

under their powers in the Criminal Justice Act 1987 by seeking, obtaining and executing a search warrant in respect of the company. Documents were seized and examined by representatives of the Italian authorities.

Miss Clare Montgomery, QC, Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC and Mr Julian Knowles for the applicants; Mr James Turner for the Home Secretary; Mr Andrew Radcliffe for the Serious Fraud Office as an interested party.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the primary question related to the decision to refer the request to the SFO as the request could not properly be regarded as one "for the assistance in obtaining evidence" (section 4 of the 1990 Act) but was rather a fishing expedition.

It was further submitted that the Home Secretary was bound to consider whether or not the request concerned a political offence within the meaning of article 23a of the 1959 Convention and that had he done so in the light of information which the Italians were duty bound, but had failed, to provide he would have concluded that it did and that would have provided him with a specific discretion to refuse assistance.

The applicant submitted that "evidence" had an established meaning in the context of mutual assistance and that was direct evidence for use at a trial as contrasted with information which might lead to the discovery of evidence: see *Rio Tinto Zinc Corp v Westinghouse Electric Corp* (1978) AC 547.

His Lordship accepted the respondent's submission that what was meant by "evidence" in the present context was not identical to its established meaning in the *Westinghouse* case.

Provision had been made by the 1990 Act for obtaining evidence in connection with a criminal investigation providing only that the Home Secretary was satisfied that the investigation into a particular offence was being carried on and that there were reasonable grounds for suspecting that it had been committed.

When one spoke of "evidence" in the context of a criminal investigation, the permissible area of search had inevitably to be wider than

based on public policy, but on the view that his Lordship took of the primary question, he did not need to base his decision on that argument.

The central problem in every action of the present kind was whether, and if so to what extent, the court should mark the fact that whatever pain or distress the mother might have suffered in pregnancy and labour and what ever financial outlay both parents might incur, each had received the gift of a child and all of the actual and prospective benefits emotional, social and economic, that the child brought to them.

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Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Investigating foreign fraud claim

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once the investigation was complete. In short, the 1990 Act created a wholly new scheme for mutual assistance with regard to criminal investigations under which it would plainly be necessary to examine altogether more material than would ultimately constitute evidence at any trial.

"That consideration of itself was sufficient to defeat the applicants' contention. What was under investigation was a wide ranging, multi-faceted, international fraud involving far-reaching allegations against a large number of individuals in connection with an even larger group of companies."

Considering that it was an investigative stage, one could hardly have looked for greater particularisation for the offences than was contained in the letters of request. The request for assistance was not vague and speculative but as precise and focused as such a request could sensibly have been in the circumstances.

On the political issue, his Lordship rejected the respondents' contention that the Home Secretary was not bound to consider whether the offence was connected with a political one, to do so would plainly be to overlook a material consideration.

That was not to say, however, that the Home

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | | | | | BANKS | | | | |
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| Stock | Company | Price | High | Low | Stock | Company | Price | High | Low |
| 5.07 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.84 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.08 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.85 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.09 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.86 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.10 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.87 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.11 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.88 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
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| 5.18 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.95 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.19 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.96 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.20 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.97 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.21 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.98 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.22 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 10.99 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.23 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 11.00 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.24 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 11.01 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.25 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 11.02 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.26 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 11.03 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
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| 5.36 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 11.13 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.37 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 11.14 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
| 5.38 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 11.15 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
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| 5.42 1/2 | Heublein | 45 1/2 | 46 | 45 1/2 | 11.19 1/2 | ABA | 36 1/2 | 37 | 36 1/2 |
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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: BAA, British Steel, Celebrated Group, Cleveland Trust, Emap, James Smith Estates, Frowling, Renold, Charles Sidney, Wyndeham Press.
 Finals: Carr's Milling Industries, Sidlaw Group.
 Economic statistics: UK October producer prices.

TOMORROW

Interims: Amersham International, Business Post Group, Chamberlain & Hill, DCC, General Accident (Q3), Independent Parts Group, Jupiter Extra Income Trust, Marshalls, Sedgwick Group, Sims Food Group, Vosper Thornycroft, WT Foods.
 Finals: Allied Domecq, Capital Radio, Scottish Value Trust, Wardle Stores.
 Economic statistics: French October preliminary consumer prices index, UK September construction new orders.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Borthwicks, Commercial Union (Q3), Hambros, Land Securities, Volex, Willis Corroon (Q3), Young & Co's Brewery.
 Finals: ABI Leisure, Cirqual, James Dickie, Fenner Holdings.
 Economic statistics: UK BRC retail sales survey, UK October unemployment, UK September average earnings and unit wage costs, UK September monthly monetary meeting minutes, US October producer prices.

THURSDAY

Interims: Appleby Westward Group, Bank of Ireland, British Telecommunications, LM Ericsson (Q3), Kleinwort High Income Trust, Maid (Q3), Portsmouth & Sunderland, Oxford Instruments, PowerGen, Property Partnerships, Quintain Estates & Development, Scapa Group, Shanks & McEwan, South West Water, Telegraph (Q3).
 Finals: Action Computer, Westmount Energy, Wyfield Group.
 Economic statistics: October retail prices, US October consumer prices index, US October retail sales, US weekly jobless claims, US October real earnings.

FRIDAY

Interims: Black Arrow Group, Cox Insurance Holdings, Honda Motor Company, Plasmor, Railtrack Group, Symonds.
 Finals: British Assets Trust, Majestic Investments.
 Economic statistics: UK CBI/BSL regional trends survey, US October industrial production, US October capacity utilisation.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

BT's top operator on the line



Sir Iain Vallance will announce BT's first figures since its deal with MCI, run by Bert Roberts

BT: The group will be back in the news again this week, hard on the heels of its £12 billion acquisition of MCI, with the announcement of its second-quarter figures on Thursday. They are unlikely to contain many surprises, with most brokers looking for a drop in pre-tax profits.

NatWest Securities, the broker, has pencilled in a figure of £680 million. This would compare with £732 million for the same time last year. It would correspond with a decrease of 7 per cent in earnings per share to 7.1p.

Once again attention will be focused on the dividend. The group has already forecast dividends for the year of 19.85p. This excludes the special dividend of 35p being paid at the year end, regardless of whether or not the MCI deal goes through.

On the trading front, profits will have been hit by the timing of redundancy costs. However, even after stripping out these effects, the group's performance will be flat. Volume growth of 6 per cent will be offset by price cuts and the loss of market share. Any increase in revenue is likely to come from mobile services, new services, and international activities.

POWERGEN: It is hoped that stronger pool prices and increased demand will have gone some way to offset any dilution stemming from the sale of two power stations to Eastern. A drop in pre-tax profits of about 7 per cent to £124 million is envisaged when the group unveils half-year figures on Thursday. Earnings per share, in fact, should be marginally ahead at 13.7p after the recent buyback of 10 per cent of its own shares.

The figures will include an exceptional profit of £69 million relating to the sale of its shares in Midlands Electricity and the National Grid after the abortive bid for the former.

Brokers are looking for a rise of 1p to 7.5p in the dividend and are confident that the group can sustain growth of 15 per cent a year over the next few years.

BAA: First-half results from the airport operator usually account for the bulk of group profits. Traffic during the period is expected to have grown about 3 per cent, amounting to 29 million passengers. But with a tough pricing policy of RPI-1 per cent in

place, revenue growth is likely to have risen only 2 per cent. Half-year figures published later today are likely to show pre-tax profits up from £285 million to £303 million, with earnings per share growing 7 per cent to 22.1p.

The real boost will come from a 9.5 per cent increase in retail income to £324 million after a 6 per cent rise in that income per passenger. Property revenues will be up, but profit from property disposals is likely to fall short of the figure last time.

BRITISH STEEL: A sharp drop in profits is on the cards when the group unveils half-year results this morning. Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, is looking for £275 million at the pre-tax

level, compared with £550 million for the corresponding period. A lot will depend on the exchange rate between the pound and the mark.

In spite of the current strength of sterling, the period under review is likely to have seen an adverse impact on revenues.

On a positive note, steel prices in Europe have been edging ahead mainly through reductions in rebates. British Steel appears to be holding prices against the Europeans to protect its profitable domestic market. This will go some way towards offsetting the impact of a stronger pound.

RAILTRACK: Half-year figures on Friday will be the first since the group was privatised in May. As a result, these figures are

unlikely to give an accurate view of the group's progress although they are expected to reflect a reduction in costs.

Pre-tax profits are expected to be up from £89 million to between £145 million and £155 million. Revenue growth is likely to be flat, although there will be some improvement in the revenues from passenger franchises.

Earnings growth will not be as pronounced as profits growth, with UBS, the broker, forecasting a 17 per cent increase to 26p per share. This it attributes to the absence of last year's tax credit.

ALLIED DOMECQ: The group is expected to dismiss suggestions tomorrow, when it unveils full-year figures, that it plans a

demerger of the group's activities. This will be in spite of a disappointing set of figures, reflecting the effect of further restructuring. Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, is believed to have decided any advantages are outweighed by the cost.

Pre-tax profits will be down from £645 million to £566 million with earnings per share showing an even steeper decline from 38.2p to 32.8p. A cut in the payout from 27.0p to 24.1p is in prospect. The spirits division will have struggled to make headway, with a decline in profits of about 13 per cent at the operating level. Retailing should have managed to hold its head above water.

SOUTH WEST WATER: The City will be anxious to learn about the long-term strategy of the group after its reprieve from the bids of rivals Severn Trent and Wessex, courtesy of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Pre-tax profits are likely to have grown by £14 million to £68 million with the growth in earnings per share about 17 per cent at 47p. A 20 per cent rise in the interim payout to 11.8p has already been forecast by the group. The cost of defending itself from the two bids may have been as high as £4 million.

LAND SECURITIES: A minimal increase in rental income and a near 10 per cent rise in the net interest charge is likely to result in a small decline in profitability at the halfway stage. Pre-tax profits are expected to be about 5 per cent down at £113 million, with earnings showing a similar decline to 15.9p per share.

COMMERCIAL UNION: A drop in underwriting results should lead to a 10 per cent decline in operating profits to £345 million when third-quarter figures are unveiled on Wednesday. The situation might have been worse had it not been for an improvement in France and a stronger performance from its life operations.

GENERAL ACCIDENT: Third-quarter results tomorrow will have been buffeted by severe weather in North America producing a high number of claims. This will have led to a decline in operating profits from £350 million to £308 million.

Focus falls on inflation

With the City currently obsessed with the threat of further rate increases, the inflation figures for October, which are released on Thursday, will be the focus of attention this week. A larger than expected upward rise will only increase the pressure on the Chancellor to raise interest rates again before the election.

MMS International, the economic analyst, predicts that the RPI headline figure will jump from 2.1 per cent to 2.5 per cent, while the Government's preferred measure of RPIX — which excludes mortgage repayments — is expected to increase from 2.9 per cent to 3 per cent, well above the target figure of 2.5 per cent.

Factory gate inflation figures, which are published today, will also be scrutinised carefully to see if there are any signs of output price inflation, which has been relatively subdued in recent months, feeding through to the high street. MMS predicts a monthly rise of 0.2 per cent to take the annual rate up slightly to 2.3 per cent.

An increase in earnings growth and unit wage costs data, which is published on Wednesday, would also suggest inflationary pressures are growing. MMS predicts that average earnings for September will fall slightly to 3.75 per cent, while unit wages will rise from 4.5 per cent to 4.8 per cent. Also on Wednesday, unemployment figures are expected to show a continuing downward trend, with a fall of 20,000 predicted in October.

In the US, inflation has been proving less of an immediate threat and consumer price inflation figures published on Thursday are expected to remain flat for October at 0.3 per cent. Retail sales figures, also released on Thursday, are expected to show a gain to 0.7 per cent, although October production figures, published tomorrow, are predicted to show a small fall — excluding food and energy category — to 0.1 per cent growth. With last week's elections preserving the status quo, the market believes that the Federal Reserve Bank is unlikely to take any immediate action when it holds its monetary meeting on Wednesday.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

The Sunday Times: Bay Babcock International; Istock: WS Atkins; Morgan Sindall; Hold British Steel; Sell Glaxo Wellcome; The Sunday Telegraph: Bay Hogg Robinson; Celis International; Rubicon; Unilever; Premiere Group; The Mail on Sunday: Bay Regalian; Electronics Boutique; Hold Crown Products; Independent: Sunday Bay UNO; St Ives; Marks & Spencer; Sell Pilkington; Vickers.

Fund chiefs wary of Japanese stocks

UK FUND managers are becoming increasingly wary of investing in Japanese stocks, according to a survey conducted by Merrill Lynch and Gallup (Alasdair Murray writes).

Merrill found that bulls exceeded bears among fund managers by 9 per cent in November compared with 23 per cent in October. As a result, buyers only just outnumbered sellers. Merrill said

this was the closest UK-based managers have been to selling Japan since 1992.

The survey also found that negative sentiment among fund managers had spread to Pacific Basin equities after interest rate rises in the region. UK fund managers are now net sellers of Pacific Basin equities, which include Hong Kong, for only the second time since 1990. Attitudes toward US equities have

been improving, with the number of sellers now only just outweighing buyers after a heavy sell-off in the past few months. Fund managers also remain strong buyers of European stocks and are strongly expecting interest rates to rise in the UK in the next year.

Gallup interviewed senior managers from 74 institutions, handling funds totalling £1.775 billion, for the survey.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Business Customers

LLOYDS BANK BASE RATE

Effective from 30 October 1996 6.00% per annum

LOANS

| | % Per Month | Eqv. Annual Rate % |
|---|-------------|--------------------|
| Business Loan Standard and Flexi Business Loan Standard | 0.96 | 11.52 |
| Business Loan Preferential and Flexi Business Loan Preferential | 0.79 | 9.48 |
| Small Business Loan Standard | 1.06 | 12.72 (APR 13.4)* |
| Small Business Loan and Flexi Small Business Loan | 0.96 | 11.52 (APR 12.1)* |

*The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/ securities charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.

INTEREST EARNING ACCOUNTS

| Premier Interest Account† | Gross Rate % | Gross CAR % |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| £250,000+ | 4.75 | 4.85 |
| £100,000+ | 4.55 | 4.65 |
| £25,000+ | 4.10 | 4.18 |
| £10,000+ | 3.80 | 3.87 |

†No interest is paid on balances below £10,000.

| Business Reserve Account | Gross Rate % | Gross CAR % |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| £10,000+ | 3.70 | 3.75 |
| Below £10,000 | 3.50 | 3.55 |

| Business Call Account | Gross Rate % | Gross CAR % |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| £250,000+ | 3.40 | 3.45 |
| £50,000+ | 3.10 | 3.14 |
| £10,000+ | 2.90 | 2.94 |
| £1,000+ | 2.60 | 2.63 |
| Below £1,000 | 2.20 | 2.22 |

Interest rates may vary from time to time. This notice lists current rates.

Gross Rate — the annual interest rate.

Gross CAR — compounded annual rate when full monthly, quarterly or half-yearly interest is reinvested.

NET — the annual interest rate after deduction of tax at the appropriate rate. This is shown for illustrative purposes only. Certain customers may be able to reclaim the tax from the Inland Revenue.

Business Call Account and Premier Interest Account interest paid monthly.

Business Reserve Account interest paid quarterly.

OVERDRAFTS

| Band | % Per Month | Eqv. Annual Rate % |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| A (and Standard) | 0.93 | 11.16 |
| B | 0.84 | 10.08 |
| C | 0.76 | 9.12 |
| D | 0.72 | 8.64 |
| Unauthorised | 2.00 | 24.00 |

MORTGAGES

| Band | % Per Month | Eqv. Annual Rate % |
|------|-------------|--------------------|
| A | 0.96 | 11.52 |
| B | 0.79 | 9.48 |
| C | 0.75 | 9.00 |

| Clients Call Account | Half-Yearly Option | | Monthly Option | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Gross Rate % | Gross CAR % | Gross Rate % | Gross CAR % |
| £1,000,000+ | 4.10 | 4.14 | 4.07 | 4.15 |
| £100,000+ | 3.85 | 3.89 | 3.82 | 3.89 |
| £10,000+ | 3.55 | 3.58 | 3.53 | 3.58 |
| £2,500+ | 2.80 | 2.82 | 2.78 | 2.82 |
| Below £2,500 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |

| Treasury Account | Gross % | Net % |
|------------------|---------|-------|
| £25,000+ | 3.25 | 2.60 |
| £10,000+ | 3.05 | 2.44 |
| £5,000+ | 2.60 | 2.08 |
| £500+ | 2.40 | 1.92 |
| Below £500 | 1.00 | 0.80 |

| Deposit Account | Half-Yearly Option | | Monthly Option | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | Gross Rate % | Gross CAR % | Gross Rate % | Gross CAR % |
| £1+ | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 |

These rates of interest apply with effect from 11 November 1996

Lloyds Bank Plc, which is regulated by the Prudential Supervision Authority and FSA, represents only the Lloyds Bank Marketing Group for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business.



THE THOROUGHbred BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London, EC3P 3BS.

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

Continuing the series on the great captains of sport, a look at the greatest football captain ever.

ARTS

Get a 10-track Virgin CD for just £1. See the token in tomorrow's paper.

CHANGING TIMES

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

NAPF call to target employers

By Robert Miller

BRITAIN'S largest company pension schemes are to press the two main political parties to do more to encourage employers to offer retirement provision at a top-level London conference tomorrow.

Tom Ross, chairman of the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF), whose members manage more than £350 billion of pension assets, is to urge both John Denham, the Shadow Social Security Minister, and Lord MacKay of Ardshearnish, the Social Security Minister, to help to stop the decline in the number of companies offering pensions to their employees when MPs attend the one-day NAPF autumn conference. Between tomorrow's conference and the NAPF's annual get-together in Harrogate next year there will have been a general election and the Pensions Act will have come into full force. Mr Ross said that, with both political parties now committed to the view that people will have to make more personal provision for their retirement, the NAPF and its members have a vital role to play.

Other speakers at tomorrow's conference include John Hayes, the chairman of the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority, the new statutory pensions watchdog.

Rachel Bridge looks at a bold expansion plan Down Under

Gas partners aim for the super-league

AT FIRST glance, Australia's biggest resource project looks more like something out of a sci-fi movie than a plant for processing gas.

Situated at the extreme far edge of the Western Australian outback, the huge glinting steel pipe structures cut a surreal pose against the red earth and the blue sky.

Soon it could look even stranger. For more than 15 years after the idea was first dreamt up, the North West shelf project, in which BP has a one sixth share, is finally about to enter the international super-league with an expansion plan to turn it into one of the world's leading players in liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The project's six equal partners, which include Shell, Chevron, Woodside Petroleum, BHP and Japan Australia LNG, have invested about \$12 billion in the venture and the expansion will require them to provide another \$1 billion apiece. Expansion of the project would add two new LNG processing trains to its existing three trains, a move that would almost double annual production to 14.5 million tonnes.

It is a bold move, especially since the ride so far has not been the most comfortable for

its backers. Since production began in 1984 the project has suffered several expensive setbacks, notably when the legs of its North Rankin oil platform sank into the seabed. More seriously, a sustained fall in the price of oil — and therefore LNG — has resulted in much lower than expected returns for the partners, with returns averaging around 5 per cent in the early Nineties.

There are, however, good reasons to press on. The project is supported by eight key Japanese customers, including the Tokyo Electric Power Company, Tokyo Gas Company, and Osaka Gas Company, which buy most of the current LNG production and will take up most of the expanded output under 20-year contracts. Then there is the lure of the fast growing South-East Asian market, where liquefied natural gas is in much demand.

On present forecasts demand is tipped to soar from 50 million tonnes at present to up to 80 million tonnes by the year 2005, with Japan expected to be joined by Korea, Taiwan and even China as buyers. Woodside Petroleum, the project operator, said: "All the projections point to gas as being the preferred fuel for the 21st century, particularly for

power generation." Mario Travati, oil analyst at James Capel, added: "There is a window for a new LNG project to service Asia and it is a lot easier and cheaper to expand projects that are already in operation."

For Australia the magic of LNG is that, unlike gas in its natural state, supply is not constrained by the ability to build a pipeline. Once the gas is cooled to minus 161 degrees Celsius it reduces to one six-hundredth of its gaseous volume and can be transported by ship. At its destination, it is simply reheated to turn it back into gas.

The North West shelf project itself is also looking a lot healthier. Total sales revenues of pipeline gas to the domestic market and LNG to the export markets are expected to reach \$3 billion this year. Gordon Ramsay, ANZ McCaughan oil analyst, says there has been a big improvement in efficiency that has seen the plant's capacity creep up from six million tonnes to 7.5 million tonnes without major alterations. He said: "Over time, this project will stand out globally as being one of the most efficient. It is starting to bear the fruit of investment and the project is



The project's giant glinting steel pipe structures present a surreal pose against the red earth and the blue sky

doing very well. There is a lot of momentum."

With all six partners committed to the expansion of the project — and with Woodside's recent confirmation that there are enough gas reserves to satisfy the future demands of the eight Japanese customers

— all that is needed now for is for those eight to sign on the dotted line.

So far the signs are extremely positive. Earlier this year the Japanese utilities signed a letter of indication and last month the project partners submitted a formal proposal indicating that the project had reserves of about 35 trillion cubic feet of gas.

There is, however, one big issue to be resolved by the North West shelf partners, and that is what to do about

the as yet undeveloped nearby Gorgon oilfield, in which some, but not all of them have an interest.

Chevron, which has a stake in both, has made no secret of its desire to join the two to form a huge resources venture, even suggesting recently that the Shell's \$6 billion expansion proposal should be replaced by \$10 million co-development plan that would add three new processing trains instead of just two.

John Powell, Chevron's gen-

eral manager for the Gorgon project, said: "There is a big enough prize out there for both of the venturers. All that needs to be resolved is the money issue."

Others, however, are less keen on the idea and Shell in particular, which also has a stake in both projects, has been publicly unenthusiastic about letting Mobil, its major international competitor which has an interest in Gorgon, into the shelf LNG operation.

YOUR YEAR-END ACCOUNTS ARE THE LAST THING WE SHOULD DO.

It's your decision, of course, but that would be our professional recommendation.

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CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar
1.8455 (+0.0080)
German mark
2.4781 (-0.0055)
Exchange index
90.8 (-0.1)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
6219.83 (+206.90)
FTSE 100
3910.8 (-37.7)
New York Dow Jones
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
21201.04 (+587.98)

Answers from page 39

FERULAR

(a) To do with lambasting: From the use of the fennel-stalk in Roman times, a cane, rod or other instrument of punishment. From the Latin *ferula* giant fennel, a rod. "The ferular is an instrument used by school-masters to correct their scholars."

GRITH

(c) Security, peace, a place of protection, a sanctuary. From the Old English *grið* a domicile or home. In the plural *griths*, peace or pardons. "Charles, availing himself of the law of grith or sanctuary, went down to Holyrood."

GALENA

(b) Native lead sulphate, the common lead ore. From the Latin word, applied by Pliny to lead at a certain stage in the process of smelting. Commonly, but perhaps erroneously, identified with the Greek *galēnē* a calm. "A specimen of galena lead ore was found in a small stream which runs into the Quair."

GNATHRONICAL

(c) Resembling Gnathe or his proceedings: ie parasitical, load-casting, cocking-up, brow-beating. A mythical eponym from the Greek *Gnathos*, from *gnathos* a jaw. "That Jack's is somewhat a gnathonic and parasitic soul, or stomach, all Bideford apple-women know."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Bb4 threatening 2 ... Rm3+! wins, e.g. 2 Rcl Rm3+! 3 bxc3 Bc3+ 4 Rxc3 dxc3 and White is soon mated.

TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS OF LONRHO Plc

Dear Shareholder

The company has announced

- * another new chief executive
- * an ongoing break-up strategy

The share price continues to fall

Be sure to read my circular to fellow shareholders currently in the post

Yours sincerely

Tim Rowland

R W ROWLAND

THEOBALD WILKES BOURNES END, UCKS SL4 5BN

GILT-EDGED

STEPHEN SCOTT
Kleinwort Benson

Elaine Feinstein picks up the chronicles of Connie and Mellors pretty well where Lawrence left off. The former gamekeeper is living in a farmer's cottage in Derbyshire. But not for long, it seems. Connie's thoughts are turning to Tuscany. What else is new? There's a little daughter called Emily, her sex was undetermined when Lawrence laid down his pen. Mellors has had his divorce. Episode one has no sex scene. Episode two makes amends for this omission. There are touches of Lawrentian colouring: "Smuts on the spring flowers" is one of them. And Connie is her own storyteller. The voice belongs to her.

DARLINGS, don't you know? Mary Portas is leaving. Harvey Nicks. Mid-forties, she worked for Harrods, and then the Burton Group. Mary was the marketing director, sweetie, joined in '89, and revamped Harvey Nicks, top to toe. When she arrived, it was the place to get your tiara polished, or somewhere to buy a kilt; no Mac counter, no sushi bar. Can you imagine? She's off to set up her own consultancy. Fabulous. Yellow Door, darling, that's its name. Pass the Bolly.

MORAG PRESTON

11


out to be Rosie Rowell looking quite like McKee but even more like a seriously-fringed Demi Moore. Rowell was Jude Sawyer, an undercover policeman who would stop at nothing to get her saddle — absolutely nothing. I groaned when I realised that I was named after a hard-boiled, cynical thriller writer whose name I had thought was going to be entrapment. Borrowing so freely from a real, recent and very much unsolved murder case could hardly be considered creative.

But Thomas just about got away with it, producing a script that contained enough twists and turns for real life to be forgotten, although perhaps not quite enough to fill the allotted two hours.

Still, the cast was excellent, the direction energetic and the interior paint finishes (no psychological thriller is currently complete without the use of strong colour) were rivet matt. Or was it eggshell?

Still, the cast was excellent, the direction energetic and the interior paint finishes (no psychological thriller is currently complete without the use of strong colour) were vinyl matt. Or was it eggshell?

1. *Staphylococcus aureus* (100%)

PM TAKE 5 (84169)
THE BIG BREAKFAST (44340)
HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (s)
 (61508)
SCHOOLS: Geography Junction 9.45
Book Box 10.00 Stage Two Science
10.15 Learn Sign Language 10.20
Children and People 10.40 The English
Programme 11.05 Encyclopaedia
Galectica 11.15 The Mix 11.30 Rat-A-
Tat-Tat 11.45 Junior Technology
 (404102)
RIGHT TO REPLY (r) (s) (74072)
NO LIFT OFF (r) (42594)
SESAME STREET (92069)
JOE MCDONAKES (57335362)
FILM: Hellicats of the Navy (b/w, 1957)
 Second World War drama starring Ronald
 Reagan as a submarine commander.
 Also with Nancy Davis. Directed by
 Nathan Juran (Teletext) (627701)
FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (Teletext) (s) 4.30
COUNTDOWN: The Search for the
Supreme Champion (Teletext) (s) (512)
5.00 MONTEL WILLIAMS (s) (Teletext)
(5197256) 5.45 ANTON MOSIMANN —
NATURALLY (Teletext) (S2695)
MOVIEWATCH Four young reviewers
 give their opinions on the latest film
 releases (s) (237)
HOLLYWOODS (Teletext) (s) (817)
CHANNEL 4 NEWS (Teletext) and
 weather (444898)
THE SLOT (754121)
SHORT STORIES: Murder Trial
 Following the various crime reporters who
 covered the trial of the murdered French
 hitch-hiker Céline Fignard last month
 (Teletext) (2527)
THE REAL HOLIDAY SHOW Reports
 from the Greek island of Thassos. Dorset
 and the Maldives (Teletext) (s) (4362)

the secret life of Errol Flynn (9pm)
CHOICE SECRET LIVES: Errol Flynn
 (Teletext) (s) (5072)
HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET —
 Justice Jake becomes a prime
 suspect when his father's killer is
 murdered (2/3) (Teletext) (5458)
THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL BIG
 Michael Gridiron action introduced by
 Gary Imlich (110988)
PM TRANS WORLD SPORT (368016)
LET THE BLOOD RUN FREE Pam and
 Warren discover their love for each other
 (r) (s) (8635812)
THE ANT WHO LOVED A GIRL
 Animation (1355928)
FILM: Santa Fe Trail (b/w, 1940) with
 Errol Flynn as Jeb Stuart, a West Point
 graduate sent to end the activities of
 abolitionist John Brown. Directed by
 Michael Curtiz (B11270) Ends at 3.55
SCHOOLS: Making Sense of Science
 (43370)

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1. Introduction



ON THE LINE 42

BT back in spotlight after MCI deal

BUSINESS

SHELF LIFE 44

Gas partners aim for the super-league



MONDAY NOVEMBER 11 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Court likely to reject limit on back VAT

By Jason Nisse

IN A landmark case that could cost the Exchequer as much as £5 billion, the High Court is expected to rule this week that Customs & Excise has acted illegally in refusing to pay out claims for backdated VAT extending beyond three years.

The judicial review of Customs' powers, which involves two separate claims for back VAT, starts tomorrow, with a ruling anticipated by Thursday morning. If Customs & Excise loses, the immediate payout could exceed £100 million, and further claims are in the pipeline.

The VAT Tribunal has said at previous hearings that it disapproved of the Customs' action but did not have the power to force repayments. Legal experts say the main issue is not whether Customs

exceeded its powers but whether the court has the authority to force it to reverse its actions. If the court does have the power, and all future claims succeed, the bill for the Exchequer could be £5 billion.

The issue at stake is the controversial ruling to set a cut-off date for claims for back VAT to just three years before the demand is presented. This means that if a business has been wrongly paying VAT for a decade, seven years of this will not be recoverable.

However, Customs & Excise is allowed to claim unpaid VAT for up to six years. In one case involving British Telecom, Customs is claiming six years' back VAT from one part of BT, while another part, which is due a VAT refund, can only reclaim three years of identical payments.

The law bringing these deadlines into effect was announced in Parliament by David Heathcoat-Amory, the then Postmaster General, on July 18. However, the Act has yet to be passed by Parliament and will only come before the Commons on November 27.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned in September, said that the Act would be retrospective and, since July 18, Customs has been refusing to make back payments that extend beyond three years.

The law has been brought in because Customs has lost a number of large actions, including those on car leasing and promotion schemes by consumer goods companies, which were expected to lead to VAT repayments estimated by some to be as high as £25 billion, although a more reasonable estimate is in the region of £5 billion.

The Customs' action is being challenged by the Federation of Ophthalmic and Dispensing Opticians and by CUS and Kay, the mail order groups. The value of these two actions is estimated by Customs to be just £25 million but is put at more than £100 million by advisers to the two groups.

Peter Jenkins, the national VAT partner of the accountants Ernst & Young, said: "Customs have no statutory authority to refuse claims, only the promise of retrospective legislation."

A spokesman for Customs said: "It would be silly for us to pay back money which we would then have to take the time and effort to recover again."

The VAT group of the big six accounting firms is to launch a protest against the new law to tie in with this week's hearing. The group is lobbying MPs to reject the legislation because of its unfair nature.

An action to the European Court of Justice is expected to be launched as soon as the law comes into force, although this is likely to take 18 months before there is a ruling.



Adair Turner unmasks the findings of the latest CBI poll today, as well as the mask he painted as part of a celebrity fundraising effort for The Prince's Trust

Businesses expect single currency to go ahead

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S business leaders forecast for the first time yesterday that Europe will definitely introduce a single currency, even as they announced new evidence showing industry in the UK still divided over economic and monetary union.

The statement by Britain's principal business leaders that, regardless of doubts within industry and in government about a single currency, Europe will go ahead comes in advance of a campaign to inform companies about the "eventuality" of economic and monetary union (EMU).

Both business and Conservative Euro-sceptics will be angered by the declared judgement of leaders of the Confederation of British Industry that a single currency is coming across Europe. They are likely to see it as a covert

attempt by pro-European big business to bring pressure to bear on ministers and companies to accept EMU.

However, Sir Colin Marshall, president of the CBI and chairman of British Airways, was unequivocal. Asked by *The Times* whether the CBI expected Europe to introduce a single currency, Sir Colin said: "Is a single currency going to happen? Yes."

Speaking before the opening today of the CBI's annual conference in Harrogate, Sir Colin said: "It's pretty obvious that the political will in mainland Europe is very definitely there to establish monetary union and achieve a single currency — whether Britain is a part of it or not."

In the CBI poll, carried out by MORI, of some 1,700 companies around Britain, 87

per cent of firms supported the UK's membership of the EU, with only 8 per cent in favour of withdrawal.

However, business is less clear on EMU, with 56 per cent supporting the principle of Britain's participation in a single currency, while 30 per cent are opposed. The poll comes a day before the ruling tomorrow by the European Court of Justice on Britain's legal challenge to the EU directive introducing a 48-hour limit on the working week.

Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, said: "There is significant support in business for the idea that we should go ahead with EMU, at some time." Business also heavily backed the Government's opt-out from the EU social chapter.

Smaller firms' woes, page 45

Bidders chosen for BBC disposal

By Eric Reguly

AT LEAST four contenders, including Securicor and a management buy-in, are on a shortlist of bidders for the BBC transmission service, to be privatised next month.

The transmission system has a £210 million book value and strong interest could raise its price. Lehman Brothers, the Wall Street investment bank advising the BBC, has asked for final bids by the end of the month. The BBC expects to announce the winner before the end of the year.

The other finalists are NTL, the former transmission arm of the Independent Broadcasting Authority and now owned by International CableTel, a US-controlled cable company, and an Amer-

ican "wireless" communications group whose name has not been revealed.

If NTL wins, it will have a monopoly on terrestrial television transmissions and control most radio transmissions. However, Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator, said last month that NTL should not necessarily be excluded from bidding.

Securicor, the security group, wants the system to bolster its mobile-phone networks. Securicor operates private networks for police. Mercury Asset Management is backing the BBC transmission service managers.

The BBC will use sale proceeds to help set up digital broadcasting and to fund programming.

Unison acts on 48-hour week

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

UNISON, the UK's biggest union, will today mount a pre-emptive strike against the Government over the working-time directive by threatening legal action for non-implementation.

Unison is to challenge the Government's failure to establish the directive in a move that comes just before tomorrow's ruling from Brussels on the directive.

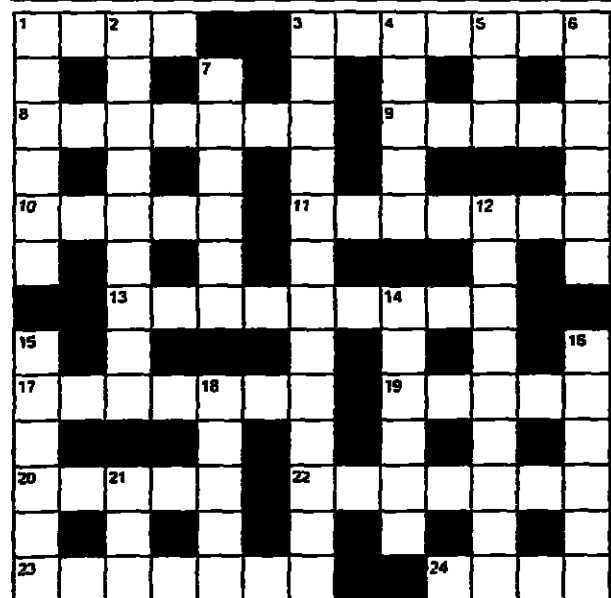
Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary, will issue a petition to the European Parliament on November 23 — the date the directive is intended to be implemented — on behalf of those members who will lose out. A spokeswoman for Unison

said it was confident of success.

The directive, agreed in 1993 and appealed against by Britain, sets a maximum working week of 48 hours with rest periods every six hours, a minimum daily rest of 11 hours, one day off a week and four weeks' paid holiday each year.

The Government views the working-time rule as a bid by Brussels to circumvent the opt-out that Britain secured from the social chapter of workers' rights in the Maastricht treaty. After Tuesday's ruling, Britain could choose not to incorporate the directive into legislation.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 936

ACROSS

- 1 Sailor's fabric; Innings of 0 (4)
- 3 Thieving bird of Rheims (Barham) (7)
- 8 Unwise (7)
- 9 Judgment of Paris fruit (5)
- 10 Long-handled spoon (5)
- 11 A cloying excess (7)
- 13 Desert course (9)
- 17 Back gate (7)
- 19 Precious stone (5)
- 20 Solemn vows (5)
- 22 Distinguished (7)
- 23 Uncontrollably violent (7)
- 24 Nothing more than; pond (4)

DOWN

- 1 Beamish; narrow pass (6)
- 2 All blue (sky) (9)
- 3 Grapes of Wrath author (4,9)
- 4 Professor's seat (5)
- 5 Pickpocket; lower (3)
- 6 Floral tribute (6)
- 7 Order; straight (6)
- 12 In another place (9)
- 14 Strongly recommend; command (6)
- 15 Self-possession (6)
- 16 Carefree; happy (6)
- 18 Follow as consequence (5)
- 21 Sailor; with feather; punish (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 935

ACROSS: 1 Suggest 5 Flask 8 Moose 9 Hand out 10 Easy on the eye 12 Rubber 14 Gideon 17 The Moonstone 21 Almanac 22 Drift 23 Trash 24 Workman

DOWN: 1 Symmetry 2 Gross 3 Eyesore 4 Tahiti 5 Fence 6 Andynite 7 Kite 11 Unbeaten 13 Bohemia 15 Insider 16 Moscow 18 Month 19 Odium 20 Gait

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East Midlands may face US bid

By Martin Waller

A SECOND American-backed contested takeover bid in the British electricity sector could arrive as soon as this morning from Dominion Resources, of Virginia, which was forced last week to disclose an interest in bidding for East Midlands Electricity.

The Americans are thought to have decided in principle to mount a bid, and a board meeting in Richmond, Virginia, last night was putting the final touches to their plans. There could be a "dawn raid" on the stock market aimed at scooping up a strategic holding.

Reports at the weekend suggested a bid for East Midlands at about 630p a share, against a closing price on Friday of 593½p. This would put a price on the company of £1.25 billion. But the board, chaired by Sir Nigel Rudd, one of Britain's most experienced industrialists, is likely to hold out

for a price much closer to £7 a share.

Dominion already has the necessary clearance from its local regulatory authorities to make an offer. The company indicated last week it would not offer "substantially" higher than a price of 608p a share, and debate last night was thought to be over how much higher it was prepared to go. Meetings were also taking place at the company's merchant bank, SBC Warburg.

If, as expected, Dominion bids, this would leave just two of the 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales never having attracted a takeover offer. Seven have been taken over, four by American utilities, and an eighth, Northern, is the subject of a contested offer from another American business.

East Midlands' share price is expected to rise this morning in anticipation of an approach.

Sale tactic considered

NORTHERN Electric, under £750 million takeover threat from CalEnergy, of Nebraska, is understood to be considering the sale for as much as £200 million of its power supply business as a way of funding a bonus payout to shareholders to encourage them to reject the bid (Martin Waller writes).

Several potential buyers are thought to have expressed an interest before the US bid a fortnight ago, including the neighbouring water and power company, United Utilities, and Scottish Hydro-Electric. One stumbling block to the plan, however, is the near-30 per cent stake in Northern held by CalEnergy.

Granada to sell hotels separately

Granada, the leisure company, is understood to have decided to sell off the 17 hotels in the Exclusive chain on an individual basis to maximise the price.

The book value of the hotels is £780 million, but Granada could pull in up to £900 million from a series of separate disposals. The company has also received clearance from the Inland Revenue for exemption from capital gains tax by selling the hotels in this manner.

The fiercest bidding war has been for the Hyde Park Hotel in central London, with interested parties understood to include two relatives of the Sultan of Brunei and TCC, the Thai hotels company. Offers are in the region of about £80 million.

Job insecurity of managers

Britain's managers largely doubt they will be better off over the next year in a "clear sign" that the economic "feeling" factor has yet to return to UK companies, new evidence suggests today. The findings of the survey by the Institute of Management show a clear swing in support towards Labour among managers and have them broadly divided over whether the economy generally will improve in the next 12 months.

Polling a sample of 400 managers, the institute shows today that as many as 59 per cent of managers do not feel they will be financially better off during the next 12 months, a key factor being job insecurity. Roger Young, the institute's director-general, said managers were "sceptical about growth feeding through to boost personal well-being".

IN BUSINESS TOMORROW



ANATOLE KALETSKY surveys the fall-out on financial markets after Bill Clinton's victory in the American election

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Republicans begin hunt for leader who can win

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS have started to tackle the glaring question of why they saddled themselves with such a poor presidential candidate as Bob Dole — and of who his successor will be.

Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader now described as "the most powerful Republican in Washington", denied yesterday that he was already considering running in 2000, but added: "You're going to have a cavalry charge, a stampede."

However, the search for a new leader will highlight the gaping ideological splits in the party. As party adviser John McLaughlin argued to *Newsweek*: "It's no accident that we've lost two presidential elections since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Foreign policy was the one thing that united all parts of the base."

Republicans control Congress and most of the country's governorships, but they

have seen huge inroads forced into their strongholds.

The policy lessons of Bill Clinton's victory are clear. One senior Republican adviser said: "We now know that Newt Gingrich and the *Contract with America* and pretty well any hint of revolution are a turn-off, particularly with women. These little, bitty things that Clinton's come up with — the Internet, extra hospital nights for new mothers — voters like them much more than we thought."

At the same time, Republicans need to rethink the seniority system which produces candidates long on experience, money and influence but short on charisma. As Rich Bond, a former party chairman, put it: "We're kind of a royalist party. We always go with the heir-apparent."

The party was lucky that this tradition gave it the popular and charismatic Ronald Reagan; more often, it has got

dull fixers such as Gerald Ford, George Bush and Bob Dole.

But at least these institutional figures stitched together the underlying divisions. As the party turns to the next generation, they will gape open. On social policy, it is split between the religious Right and the moderate country-club set. On economic questions, tax-cutting supply-siders are at war with balanced-budget fans, while protectionists battle with free-traders.

The Christian Coalition, the highly organised body which treats politics as a jihad, dominates the primary elections to select the presidential candidate. The risk is that the primaries will throw up a nominee who is repellent to mainstream America.

The party also suffers from a shortage of contenders in the age group below Mr Dole. Among established names, one towers above the rest:

Colin Powell. His liberal stance on abortion and affirmative action for minorities might offend the far Right. But surveys repeatedly show that he is the only big name capable of attracting many Democrats. The snag is he may again decide not to run.

Others are household names but stand little chance. Mr Gingrich's fate as Speaker of the House is in the balance, so great a liability was his radical reputation in the campaign. Jack Kemp, the vice-presidential candidate, blew his chance in the 90-minute televised debate with Al Gore by a belligerent, incoherent performance. The electorate also found his beloved tax-cut plans dubious.

Others, less prominent, may be better placed. The party is not short of money, but it lacks fresh talent and a unifying philosophy. Until it solves those problems, it may be short of an electable leader.

'Boring' Clinton gets talk show apology

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday got an on-air apology for being called a bore by David Brinkley, the political commentator. Mr Brinkley's popular programme *This Week*, which ended yesterday after 15 years, attracted unusual attention because of the host's post-election attack on Mr Clinton.

Mr Brinkley said on air last week that voters could expect more "goddamned

nonsense" for the next four years, called the President's Tuesday night speech "one of the worst things I've ever heard", and declared Mr Clinton was "a bore".

In his programme yesterday, the host told the President that his remarks were "both impolite and unfair, and I'm sorry and I regret it". Mr Clinton accepted the apology, saying: "I've said a lot of things myself late at night when tired." He added that Mr Brinkley's remarks had made Vice-President Al Gore, who is

frequently accused of woodenness, "very happy".

The President used the show yesterday to call for Republican help on the thorniest problems facing the new Administration. And he said that he did not intend to give former business colleagues charged with wrongdoing "any special preference". Pressed on which policy he would put above all others, he said passing a budget which would open the doors of college to all Americans.



Maoris carry the Zulu leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi ashore at Lake Rotorua in New Zealand for a world indigenous Christian peoples' conference

US Army suspends 15 in sex inquiry

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ANOTHER 15 non-commissioned officers in the US Army were suspended from duty after allegations of widespread sexual harassment at a training base in Maryland.

A total of 19 drill sergeants and teaching staff at the Army Ordnance Centre in the garrison town of Aberdeen have been linked to suspected abuses of women recruits, the youngest of them 18. The alleged activities include rape, which under US military law carries a life sentence, and forcible sodomy.

Today is Veterans' Day, the US version of Armistice Day. The grim countenances at this year's ceremonies will reflect senior officers' embarrassment and anger that the American military is once again embroiled in a sexual scandal. The Aberdeen case threatens to outdo the Tailhook affair of 1991 which uncovered sexual abuse in the US Navy.

None of the latest batch of instructors to be suspended at Aberdeen was charged with an offence, the Army said. Some have been assigned to office work while inquiries are made. The suspects so far have included married men and NCOs who supervised the most physical parts of recruits' training.

The military police are investigating the case to see if the base had a history of sexual harassment. Women who left the training camp in past years will be interviewed and asked if sexual abuse was the reason for their abandoning an Army career.

Yesterday there were indications that the Aberdeen affair could become a political issue. An editorial article in *The New York Times* acknowledged that the Army had acted with speed to improve the scrutiny of training operations, but said that "it must make sure that if senior officers at Aberdeen condoned the abuses, they too are held accountable".

A Democrat member of Congress, Patricia Schroeder, said that the Army operated a "wink-wink" policy on sexual harassment. Lawrence Korb, a former Pentagon official, said: "This is still a man's profession, with a lot of men who have not accepted that the military could be women's work."

Judy Fortiano, a New Jersey-based sexual relations expert, said that when women report sexual harassment to the police it is normally an indication that they have exhausted all other ways of resisting the male behaviour. At the same time, she said, there was "tremendous concern [in the military] that you cannot even talk to a woman in case she runs off and sues".

Aids victims count cost of staying alive

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

AIDS sufferers have a new worry — what if, against all expectations, they survive? They have spent their money, sold their homes, made their wills, said goodbye to their friends. Now, thanks to new drugs, they may have two or three decades more to live.

The unexpected turn in the disease, which has killed a third of a million in America alone, is due to a combination of drugs that have succeeded in reducing levels of HIV in the blood to undetectable levels.

Andrew Sullivan, the former editor of the *New Republic* political magazine, argued yesterday in *The New York Times*: "A diagnosis of HIV infection... no longer signifies death. It merely signifies illness."

Hope that the Aids death sentence may be lifting has been brought about by protease inhibitors, which came on the market just under a

year ago. According to Mr Sullivan, who has known he was HIV-positive since 1993 and who is taking the drugs, the short-term side-effects include nausea, diarrhoea and constant fatigue. Long-term effects and success rates are unknown.

The drugs have, however, generated a wave of first-hand accounts by Aids sufferers astonished to be alive. On Friday David Sanford, the editor of the front page of *The Wall Street Journal*, used his newspaper to tell his story. "I had blown my mother's estate, about \$180,000, on living for the moment, eating in the best restaurants and taking three or four foreign vacations a year. I was determined to go out in style."

Mr Sanford, who believes he was infected by HIV in 1982, said he was getting so plump that his doctor had told him to go on a diet; he is also trying to repair his finances.

America thrown off UN budget committee

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United States has been removed from the key United Nations budget committee for the first time, in a move that is likely to put further strain on relations between Washington and the organisation.

In an upset, the US candidate failed to gain election to the 16-member Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions which vets the UN's \$1.3 billion (£790 million) annual budget.

France and New Zealand won the two seats being contested, scoring 117 and 116 votes respectively in a secret ballot of all UN members; the United States received 103. The other members of the group of financial experts are from Russia, Cuba, Barbados, Brazil, China, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mali, Romania, Syria, Tanzania and Tunisia. Britain lost its traditional seat several years ago.

The United States is by far the largest contributor to the UN budget, paying 25 per cent of all UN administrative costs and 31 per cent of peacekeeping costs. But Washington is also the organisation's biggest debtor, owing about \$1.4 billion in arrears.

Asked why the United States lost, an American official said: "Three things: money, money and money. Resentment about US arrears to the United Nations was clearly the decisive factor. The lack of our participation will inevitably diminish the committee."

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'I felt so guilty. I thought I was deserting Paul'

The campfire was burning as Catherine Moseley and her boyfriend Paul Wells settled down to enjoy their supper, high in the mountains of Kashmir's Srinagar Valley. They had spent the past few days fulfilling Paul's dream to climb the foothills of the Himalayas and were swapping jokes and stories with their Kashmiri guide and another British couple, Keith and Julie Mangan.

But as they talked, Catherine became aware that something was wrong. As first one figure, then another appeared, she realised that the makeshift camp was encircled by bearded Kashmiri gunmen. There was no panic, just a sense of the surreal, as the men demanded the Westerners' passports and then began ransacking their belongings.

"They didn't speak English, so our guide was translating," Catherine says. "They looked at our passports but it was as if they were pretending not to understand — they were holding them upside down and waving their arms around. It was all slightly theatrical."

Catherine, 27, and Paul, 25, a photography student, had met Julie and Keith, both 36, in Delhi on the bus to Srinagar and the four had decided to embark on the six-day guided trek together.

"The men gave Julie and me our passports back. Then they marched all of us behind a hut at gunpoint. We were by this stage paralysed with fear. I was very fearful that Julie and I might be raped, so I decided not to make eye contact with any of the men. I just stared at the ground."

Tears fill Catherine's eyes as she says she can't remember what she and Paul said to each other, during what were to be their last hours together, before a separation which has so far lasted 300 days. Paul and Keith along with an American, Donald Hutchings and a Ger-

Catherine Moseley speaks for the first time about the kidnapping of her boyfriend, Paul Wells, in Kashmir. Interview by Emma Wilkins



Nightmare journey: Catherine Moseley and Paul Wells

man, Dirk Hasert, remain hostages of the Al-Faraj terrorists, a militant Islamic group. There has been no official news of their fate since August 1995.

The last time Catherine saw Paul was when the gunmen stood up to march the hostages away, telling the interpreter they would be returned to the camp after their passports had been checked. "I remember Paul looking over his shoulder at me as he walked away. I

often fantasise about running after him, grabbing onto him and saying, 'No. You can't take him'. But at the time I didn't do anything. I was paralysed — just doing what was required for survival."

Catherine, who met Paul four years ago when they were students in Nottingham, has no doubt that he is tough enough to survive his captivity. His love of the mountains is all-consuming, she says. "It sounds ridiculous to say, but if

Paul were to have to choose which part of the world he was to be taken hostage in, it would be the Himalayas. He loved the mountains. They are in his blood."

The afternoon before the kidnapping, Catherine had a dream, which she now feels might have been a warning of what was to come.

"I decided to have a sleep in the afternoon in the tent and when I woke up I had the most overpowering physical sense of loneliness. I called out to Paul, who was cleaning his cameras. He said 'Are you okay? Do you want me to come in the tent?' He came in and just held me. He is the most caring and generous person..." She pauses to stop herself from weeping again.

Catherine's determination not to give up hope was most tested when the body of a fifth hostage, Hans Christian Ostro, was discovered last August. He had been decapitated and the words Al-Faraj cut into his chest. At the time, Catherine, together with the families of the other hostages, was staying with the British High Commissioner in Delhi. It was her lowest point.

"After Hans was killed I just totally gave up. I couldn't cope. You imagine that maybe he had been killed in front of the others, or maybe he was trying to escape. We had believed that the guys had formed bonds with their captors but after Hans's death everything was turned upside down."

It is a tribute to her strength of will that she forced herself out of depression to spare the feelings of the other women. "I realised that it was up to me to pull myself together, because I was upsetting the others. You cannot give up hope because as long as they may be alive that is all there is to hold on to."

The decision to leave India last October was desperately

hard. "I felt terribly guilty because I was OK and free to leave and Paul didn't have that freedom. I felt I was abandoning him because I knew I was leaving the country in which he was being held, although we didn't know where."

Although she is trying to continue with her life and has just embarked on an MA course in gallery studies at Essex University, there is never an hour when Catherine does not think of Paul.

A natural pragmatist who finds it hard to accept any proposition without proof, she is fighting a constant battle to stop herself thinking that he might be dead.

"It is pretty difficult, because you have to try to live your life, but I am stunned by the number of times I think in any

day, 'He might be dead'. I might be at a lecture, or having a chat with friends. I just make myself say 'No, he is alive'. It's imperative that I find a way not to give up hope."

Catherine returned to Kashmir last month for the first time since the kidnapping, searching for news. Vague and unconfirmed reports of sightings fail to impress her, because there remains no proof of life or death. The strongest lead came in April this year when Nasir Mohammed, a known Kashmiri militant, was arrested and claimed all the hostages had been killed last December. "Either he is lying, or someone has told him a lie, or he is telling the truth. It's a pretty bleak set of choices," she says.

In her worst moments, Catherine gains comfort from the birth of her niece Hannah, who was born on February 13 this year, Paul's 23rd birthday. "All my family and friends are fantastic and Hannah is just gorgeous. I know that if somehow this report reaches Paul, he will be overjoyed to know about Hannah," she says.

Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Jill Morrell have all offered their support to a campaign, organised by Catherine and the other hostages' families, to mark the 500th day of their captivity this Thursday. Catherine, who is naturally reticent and has so far avoided giving interviews to publicise the hostages'

plight, is forcing herself into a round of television appearances and press conferences.

"It is a comfort to know that Terry and John came back after so many years without news. The world is never going to be the same for me and I have to do everything I can to help get them out. There is a big difference between people feeling sorry for us and the whole country supporting a campaign which says more must be done."

A film of Catherine's eight-day trip to Kashmir will be shown on The Big Story on ITV this Thursday. Anyone wishing to contact the hostages' support group should ring the campaign office on 01642-331 090 or write to Hostages in Kashmir Campaign, Independent House, 112, Borough Road, Middlesbrough TS1 2ES.

Catherine Moseley says: "I often fantasise about running after Paul, grabbing onto him and saying, 'No. You can't take him'."



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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



MUSICAL

Humbus season:
Anthony Newley
takes the title
role as *Scooby*
comes to the Dominion
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE

Out of Beirut:
the Caracalla
Dance Company
show their paces
at the Peacock
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



MUSIC

Podium power:
Sir Georg Solti
conducts the Vienna
Philharmonic at
the Festival Hall
CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE

Lynn Redgrave
brings her show,
Shakespeare For My
Father, to the Theatre
Royal, Haymarket
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

In his new book, *Life's Grandeur*, Stephen Jay Gould goes some way towards explaining a puzzle: why has there been no apparent progress, at all, in the creative arts? This problem is only a glancing sideshow in a book which swivels from Plato to Darwin, talks of 3.5 billion years as we speak of last weekend, and drops a bomb on what is perhaps the last remaining delusion of much reduced mankind — that somehow *Homo sapiens* is a purposeful culmination of evolutionary forces. Not so, says Gould, not in the slightest.

So the final nail goes in. Copernicus, Galileo and Newton ousted planet Earth from the centre of the known universe to the status of a tiny satellite to a marginal star. Darwin said that we had not been made by God but were descended through the animal kingdom from a primeval soup. Freud exposed the "rational" human as dramatically less powerful than the unconscious human mind: Gould now tells us that we are accidental late-comers

Did the caveman say it all before we did?

(at one point jogged forward literally by the bolt from the blue which destroyed the dinosaurs) and our purpose is a meaningless development. All claims to greater complexity are suspect and any purchase on ascendancy risible in what for 3.5 billion years has been and remains the Age of Bacteria. The final line in the book quotes Darwin: "There is grandeur in this view of life."

Gould makes a vital distinction between the lengthy random process of natural evolution and the astounding rapidity of recent cultural change. In 100,000 years, but especially in the past 15,000, with an unchanging-sized brain behind them, human inventions have enabled human beings to speed up with unique rapidity and change the world.

We see change everywhere. If being better at war is killing more and more, we have improved

greatly, especially in the past hundred years; if speeding from place to place faster and faster is progress then up, up and away we go, everyone a Superman who can afford a ticket to fly; if turning night into day, cold into heat, squeezing the world into a box, discovering the existence of millions of beetles and zillions of bacteria is change, then we are full speed ahead.

Except in two areas. Human nature and the creative imagination in the arts.

The Cro-Magnon people painted in Lascaux as ably as any 20th-century artist; Francis Bacon, rightly I think, asserted that no art had ever surpassed the monumental sculptures of Ancient Egypt; what tragedies have or could surpass *Medea* and *King Lear*? And which musical compositions outstrip those of Bach, Beethoven or Mozart? It makes no



sense, and yet since the gift of our precarious existence is this fantastic facility for cultural change, why are the creative arts so outstandingly resistant to it? Indeed, in some areas there appears to be regression. Has great epic

poetry finally shrivelled to a few small dried, nostalgic tubers? Has verse drama followed Latin poetry onto a shrinking syllabus? Will that complicated cross weave — the intellectual, religious, passionate and mercantile complexity of medieval religious art — ever be matched again?

Gould suggests, if I read him correctly, that "our unforgiving ethic of innovation" comes up against fulfilled achievement and has to pull away. Mozart was so good and so successful that he and a few others of his time exhausted that way of doing music; therefore later composers, driven by the demand to be new, must swerve away to another pasture which may, alas, be far less fertile.

Can this be the whole case? For what if it is true as I suggested, or at least arguable, that in the

headlong fury of cultural change over the past 15,000 years two of the chief intrusables have been human nature and creative artistic expression? Gould will not let us for a moment entertain the thought that we are the end product of anything other than a series of chances and a general tendency to variation. Yet he allows for the force of more recent cultural change. So why are some things so resistant?

Perhaps even in cultural change he will not allow for a movement towards the better. Just as he denies that our complexity is in any way, shape or form superior to the apparent lack of complexity of bacteria — so, by his own argument, he may be saying that technology as needs are met and expand — art — merely adapts because need stays constant. Is that it? Comparisons — as be-

tween the primitive wooden plough and the combine harvester — are pointless because there is no change in the appetite or the instinct for art. But if that is so, what does its lack of development tell us? Is it that we are more consistent in this area — more like bacteria — than in any other part of ourselves? Is it that in the creative imagination there is a profound alignment with that great tree of life on which he insists we are such a mere accidental twig?

Endearingly, and rarely in a book succulent with firm opinions, Gould says of the lack of creative "progress": "I don't have any solutions to propose." This is on the penultimate page of the book. I hope that Professor Gould uses it as the starting point for his next book and gives us some answers to a question which just might take him from the twiglet back to the branch and, who knows, even further?

● Melvyn Bragg will be writing every Monday in *The Times*

Go north, young Turner

A new exhibition at the Tate charts the artist's journey into landscapes, says Isabel Carlisle

There is no getting away from the fact that there is a very 18th-century flavour to the exhibitions opening this month. New at the Tate, and running concurrently with the Grand Tour, is a small show in the Clore Gallery on Turner's first tour to the North of England, which he made in 1797 when he was 22.

This eight-week journey marked the beginning of Turner's involvement with landscape, and the pencil sketches and few watercolours that he made on the spot were a store of images that he raided for the rest of his life. It was a personal voyage of artistic discovery, and something of a financial gamble for a young painter, even with some commissions already agreed. Beyond that, it was a venture that married well with the fashion for picturesque souvenirs of distant places.

Travel for pleasure was still very new. The voyagers on the

Grand Tour were for the most part upper-class, but the ground rules that they laid down became universal. They certainly shaped Turner's 1797 trip, and his subsequent journeys. First, there were the 18th-century enthusiasms for discovery and classification which fuelled the impulses to see, or collect, or experience all of a certain thing. For Turner this translated into future commissions for engraved views of, among other compendiums, *The Rivers of England*. The fascination of classical ruins for Grand Tourists prompted Turner to sketch ruined abbeys and castles; the taste for Claudian views of classical landscapes meant that, at least in his early commissions, he put English country houses into a Claudian frame.

Yet if in many ways Turner's tour in the North of England was a microcosm of the Grand Tour, it also planted in him the resolve to buck the trend, and led directly to his later championing of pure landscape subjects, and watercolour as a medium on a par with oil paint. For this there is

exhibition. While the light source behind the hill, shining through the empty windows of the castle, is the same, the colours and the evocation of the mists above the River

“His tour planted a resolve to buck the trend”

Tweed are entirely different. They have undergone the sea change into pure colour and insubstantial form that mark Turner's late career. While the first part of this show is devoted to the two sketchbooks, with facsimiles that visitors can leaf through, the second part assembles the results of Turner's subsequent processing of the pencil sketches. They formed the basis for experiments in watercolour technique, mood paintings, finished watercolours and finished oils, with Turner's extraordinary visual memory adding colour and details of which he had made no concrete record. A view of the main street in Stamford, Lincolnshire, was worked up by Turner in 1828 into a watercolour and gouache filled with the human activity of a coach setting down passengers on a showery day, figures holding umbrellas and negotiating puddles, and a

milkmaid with churns hanging from her shoulders watching from one side — a cast of characters entirely absent from the original sketch.

In 1837 Turner went back to a sketch of Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland that he had made 40 years before and made four preparatory studies in watercolour for an oil painting. Each one explores a different aspect of the scene. Particularly striking is the one which sets out the composition in terms of relative colour values, and eliminates the narrative of the wreck in the sea below the cliffs, the castle, the distress rocket and the wreckers hauling in the cargo from the nearer shore.

In one early watercolour the scraping-out of colour down to the paper surface beneath a clerestory window inside Durham Cathedral serves as a blinding shaft of light cutting through the dusty shadows. It was a radical solution to an artistic problem: it is Turner's very visible experimenting with medium and effect that gives this show its edge.

● Turner in the North of England, 1797 is at the Tate Gallery, London, until February 9, then at Harewood House, Yorkshire, from March 15 until June 8, 1997



Watercolour of Durham Castle and Cathedral from the River Wear close to Framwellgate Bridge (1798): Turner's visible experimenting with medium gives the show its edge

Playing Bach at his own game

King's Consort
Wigmore Hall

Bach's activities as an arranger of his own and other composers' works are now widely known and accepted as evidence of his pragmatism as an overworked — and probably underpaid — musician. In recent years several of his pieces have been reworked, often into what is thought to be their original version. The latest is a "new" viola concerto compiled from various cantata movements.

With such a musicalological precedent, who could gainsay the King's Consort's arrangements of the organ trio sonatas as pieces for instrumental ensemble? Why should organists have exclusive rights to these marvelously inventive works? Indeed, at least two of the movements from the four sonatas in their programme of north German instrumental and vocal music were re-used by Bach in other guises.

The combination of two melody instruments and bass continuo (here cello, theorbo and organ or harpsichord) immediately transforms the sonatas into chamber pieces which worked particularly well in the vibrant but clear

acoustics of the Wigmore Hall.

There were some rather odd decisions, though why choose the harpsichord in preference to the organ in the one movement structured round extended pedal points? Why not use the gauba (as Bach did) in the arrangement of the E minor Sonata rather than viola and oboe d'amore (although this would have meant an extra player)? And why not transpose the E flat Sonata to D major when using, as here, two violins?

The performances, however, were not consistently so. The outer allegro movements lacked flair, with a tendency to over-carefulness resulting in steady tempos. With the middle slow movements relatively fast, everything tended to a more or less undifferent-

ated moderate. The two violins perked up for the Sonata in E flat, despite the difficulty of the key, while Katharina Spreckelsen's creamy oboe d'amore sound was particularly effective in the E minor Sonata.

The programme also included sacred vocal work by two of Bach's north German predecessors: Franz Tunder and Dietrich Buxtehude. Much less familiar territory this, and one well worth exploring. The strings of the King's Consort were joined by the soprano Deborah York, who sang with admirable

expressiveness and poise. Tunder's setting of Psalm 137 (*By the Waters of Babylon*), with its rich five-part string textures and relentless chromaticism, was especially striking and drew out the best music-making of the evening.

Elsewhere, the interpretative insight and intensity of, say, Musica Antiqua Köln, who have long been associated with the north German repertoire, shined the King's Consort, despite the best efforts of the excellent cellist David Watkin.

TESS KNIGHTON

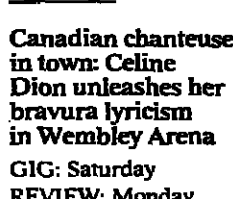
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Matthew Parris



Couriers are always dangerous. If Mr Blair is not careful, it will be hair today and gone tomorrow

Wrong signals can cause wars. They caused the Falklands War. Last week they caused the War of Blair's Hair. It began from nothing. A few cheeky reporters did ring Mr Blair's press people for comment on the FT's gossip that Tony Blair had a new haircut, but ask yourself how you would have replied? With the truth, surely. "He's had it cut, and it does look a bit different. I suppose he's happy with it. We wouldn't bother him with such questions."

That would have calmed things down. What fired journalists with a determination to push this further was the irritated and defensive reaction of those around the Labour leader. There was a simultaneous attempt to deny that his hair had changed, and to denigrate anyone for pursuing the tale at all. Hours later, Blair's team panicked, tried to make a joke of it, but repeated, in bullying tone, their attack on the FT journalist (whom they named) who had started the story.

Like dogs in packs, journalists can smell fear. Every paper decided to make something of this. Note what happens next: an object lesson in how, if the press wants to make trouble, it can create it from nothing.

On Thursday morning the War of Blair's Hair was everywhere. The *Guardian* and the *Daily Star* used computer-graphic simulations to suggest, variously, how Mr Blair would look if bald, crew-cut or dreadlocked. Pictures from his youth were dug up. Hair-loss experts were consulted for advice. At 5am that day, preparing for a press review on BBC TV's *Breakfast News*, I realised there was only one subject to discuss, and it was the American election.

But now a more damaging story was gathering momentum. The papers were linking the Hair Wars to the issue of Blair's apparent lack of appeal to some women voters. Struck by Mr Blair's "lumpy boyfriend" good looks, I had raised this myself early in 1994 during the Labour leadership contest in a frivolous sketch entitled "22 reasons not to vote for Tony Blair". My poll of 11 female colleagues at Westminster, which took minutes to conduct, two lines to report and cost nothing, revealed that Mr Blair (unlike Gordon Brown and John Prescott) was not fancied. Yesterday the *Independent on Sunday* took three full pages, including its front page, to report what must have been a costly MORI poll of nearly 800 women. It reached a similar conclusion. Two of the 11 women I polled in 1994 found Blair fanciable. MORI's figure yesterday was a little down on that, at 15 per cent.

For four days now the

papers have been full of interviews with women who do not fancy the Labour leader, and huge headlines (such as the *Independent on Sunday*) with the word "smarmy" in them. The media have been given a new playground. There has been damaging innuendo about perceived trustworthiness.

We journalists are, of course, trivial and cruel. We pick on people. But until now that has worked to Blair's advantage, for Mr Major has been the target. It is interesting to see the rage and resentment with which Tony Blair's media people react when it is their product being hammered.

And the blame falls squarely on their own heads. For most of the last three years they have had a complaisant and sympathetic press to handle. The moment the going gets tough, they blunder. Because Tony Blair has been successful with the media, and because he has a team devoted to arranging this, the team has been given the credit for the success. Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr Blair is doing well because he's bright, clean, not a socialist and not a Tory. He is succeeding not because of but despite his team of spin-doctors and advisers. These people have been a (so far) minor irritant, poisoning his relationship with the press and with

his own party.

Few have been more over-valued than these young men. "The men behind Blair", I hear a wall-chart has been issued to show who they all are. They plainly think of themselves as a cabal of kingmakers, for whom the press is a tool, the voters are dupes and the Parliamentary Labour Party is an embarrassing side-show. Some of them are now compulsive self-publicists. A few have begun feuding among themselves. Most of them are amateurish, conspiratorial and unprofessional. If they were really any good, we would not have heard of them.

This sort of thing destroys most empires in the end. It destroyed Harold Wilson and was instrumental in Margaret Thatcher's demise. With both, however, the poison took decades to take hold. It is depressing to see that this has started with Mr Blair even before he has been elected. Since dependency on couriers increases with power, we must conclude that if he cannot cast out these devils now, he never will. He must have some strange psychological need for them.

Mark my words: the men around Tony Blair will be his undoing. I offer you this prophecy without charge. It comes from the chap who wrote yesterday's *Independent on Sunday* lead story two years before it appeared.

I wonder what happened to the Miss Jacobs whom my grandmother met on March 19, 1918. She records in her diary: "Tea with Katie and A. Waugh: Miss Jacobs, fiancée to Alec (Loom of Youth writer) there." A. Waugh was Arthur, the publisher, the father of Evelyn and Alec. Two days later, my grandmother is writing: "First time of sewing shrouds at Kensington." Such are the juxtapositions of records of life during the First World War. An earlier entry, for March 16, 1917, showed a similar contrast. "Snow! Horse goes on National Service to Mr Curtis at Clapton. Revolution in Russia!! Czar abdicates. Hunger riots and troops refused to shoot."

My grandmother was already a widow in 1914. Always known as Lily, she had been born Emily Savory, the daughter of the rector of Camley, the village next to where we still live in Somerset. In the early 1890s she had worked as a governess for the Paget family at Cranmore; she taught two of the great-aunts of Alexander Chancellor, whose remarkable Paget mother died a few days ago in her nineties. In his youth, Arthur Waugh had been another Somerset neighbour at Midsummer Norton. Her diary records this agreeable social life throughout the war, when she was still living in Somerset and later when she went to London. It provides a backdrop both to the events of the war, and to the losses of the young sons of her family and friends.

The spring of 1918 was the time when the Allies came closest to losing the war. In 1917, America had come in but Russia had dropped out. The diary records the spring crisis. "March 21. Heavy fighting begins in France. March 24. Battle gets worse: we retreat nearly to Amiens. Scott [her brother's son] is in it. His retreating squad lose all their baggage: he brings them through the battle, it seems. March 27. Allenby's

Suffering that still strikes us dumb

entry into Jerusalem and Bob Rees-Mogg [her nephew by marriage] to be seen very plainly: marching along with smile. March 31. Easter Day. Scott out of the turmoil. Fletcher [her son] sends card 'All Well'. April 2. Further letter from Scott: had a night in a bed! Much refreshed, though years older."

My grandmother sadly underlined the diary entry for May 1. "I was with Dick and Emily when telegram came 'Scott died of wounds on 26th.' Great unexpected shock. I go to War Office - 'wounded on 26th', so not long agony." My father always thought his cousin Scott Savory had been too frail a man to be in the Army at all; that view is borne out by the brief newspaper obituary my grandmother pasted in her diary.

"Second lieutenant Henry Lawrence Scott Savory, aged 21, only child of Mr and Mrs Savory of 10 Longridge Road, SW, died on April 26 of wounds received in action the same day. Educated at Romenham, Hindhead, and Radley, he passed the Cambridge entrance examinations (Jesus College) in 1914, but owing to the outbreak of war his plans were changed. After undergoing a serious operation, he entered Sandhurst in 1915, but his health debarrd him from military service, and he took up the engineering course at Jesus College. In May 1917, he was able to join the Cambridge OTC and was given a commission in the Durham Light Infantry in September. He

went to the front last January, with a battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, later he was attached to the Worcester Regiment, with whom he was in action on April 26. The Commanding Officer writes: 'All regret his loss, as he would have made a valuable officer.' One wonders how many times the CO had used the same words to describe young officers, recently attached to his regiment, whom he can hardly have met. My grandmother is still recording the German advance in early June.

William Rees-Mogg

"This last week a great German threat to the Marne." Then she refers to the Penberth Billing criminal libel case. "Horrible trial: Billing book. 47,000 high English names who can be blackmailed by Germany and many receiving German gold. Asquith, Haldane etc mentioned (V. spirit depressing)." But she did not remain depressed for long. On June 4, "I sell flags for Church Army, Regent Street, £1.18s.2½d." On June 6 she hears that Bob Rees-Mogg has been torpedoed in the Mediterranean but has survived.

Even my father, on leave in London

in July, goes down with "Spanish Flu" and has a temperature of 104, though a week later he is well enough to give his mother dinner at the Berkeley Hotel, then he has to go back to France. "July 26. Fletcher round in afternoon: puts away civis and we say goodbye at Earls Court station, 5.30. Ah! I shop and do quilt." It is only at the end of July 1918 that she records good news about the war. "Foch defeats the Germans on Marne." That turns out to be the beginning of the end for the German Army.

By mid-October she is recording "a wonderful week of victories". By the beginning of November the surrenders are coming in: first Turkey, then Austria. Then the diary records the days of victory. "November 9. Kaiser and Crown Prince abdicate. Lord Mayor's Show. I go to see both processions on Embankment. Tea Savoy V. weary! November 11. Armistice signed and fighting is stopped at 11.00am. Maroons and hooters. Flags come out. I go on [knitting] Pneumonia. Jacket to lunch, then out. Bus to Hyde Park turned back. Wet. Crowds. Dine at Dicks. London v. wild. November 12. To Buck Pal and see King, Queen and Princess Mary go and return St Paul's - on balcony and we shout 'God Save'. 100s of cannon in the Mall. Crowds thick and v. quiet; here and there romping - bonfires late, guns burst. November 13. Sew. Crowds continue and bonfires. Kaiser in Holland."

The very quiet London crowds had, I suppose, to face the same shocking contrast as my grandmother. On Armistice Day she went to dinner with her brother. Her son, whose 29th birthday happened to fall on November 11, 1918, was now going to come back home; his son, seven years younger, had been buried six months earlier in a British military cemetery in Belgium. Of her five close kin who fought, two had been killed, two were safe, and the fifth, who had won the DSO in 1917, never recovered from the shock of being torpedoed in 1918.

The men who fought were not much thanked, at least not by the government or the bureaucracy. They did not come home to "a fit country for heroes to live in", nor had they fought "the war to end all wars". My grandmother tucked my father's demobilisation letter from the War Office into the back of her diary. It reads: "Sir, I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that you have been released from actual military duty from 4 April 1919 inclusive. On and subsequent to this date you will not be entitled to army pay and allowances, neither shall any period during which you are so released count towards any gratuity, nor for non-effective benefits, nor will you be eligible for promotion during that period." The permission to wear uniforms for one month is for the purpose of enabling you to obtain plain clothes, and will not entitle you to use AFV 3504 (concession voucher), when travelling. "That was the spirit of the demobilisation of those who came back."

As it recedes into history, the Great War seems to become more rather than less tragic. It is hard to imagine the suffering either of those who fought or of those left at home. They coped with it. God knows how, and we should continue to remember those, like young Scott Savory, who sacrificed themselves for us, the children of the future they never knew.

The centre cannot hold

America's local diversity is better than British uniformity, argues Peter Riddell

The curse of British politics is centrally imposed uniformity. We have become used to national solutions and national standards. In practice, there are big variations in levels of service, but when something goes wrong, national politicians are expected to intervene. Not only does this produce absurdities, such as Gillian Shephard being involved in the future of one allegedly disruptive 10-year-old boy in Worsop, it has also inhibited innovation and risk-taking.

Tory as much as Labour governments are to blame. There has, admittedly, recently been more willingness to try out new ideas in social security and education, and the city challenges pioneered by Michael Heseltine have encouraged urban regeneration. But the limited pilot schemes here are timid compared to the variety of initiatives across the Atlantic. Whenever I visit America, I am struck by the vitality of policy thinking at local and state level. That is where the real debate is being conducted over parental choice of schools and workforce (tying benefits to attendance at work training schemes).

Of course, America is more diverse than Britain. State and local authorities directly finance more than nine-tenths of public education; the reverse of the situation in Britain, where central government raises the bulk of the money and the Treasury likes to control everything.

The focus of British political debate and accountability is the centre, at Westminster. Ministers are held to account for local incidents. The consequent dilemmas were highlighted recently in Blair's *Curtis* by David Wiltshire, who his alter ego will have other, more mundane distractions at



the Standards and Privileges Committee. He argues that "in a unitary political state, people are very reluctant to accept genuine diversity". Central government also feels obliged to protect council taxpayers from "the lunacies of an incompetent council" by capping. Mr Wiltshire implicitly accepts that measures to reduce the amount raised locally (introduced by his own government since 1979) have weakened local democracy and diversity, so it is a bit rich to put the main blame on egalitarianism.

Public sector reforms have been centrally driven and uniform. It is all or nothing. Some of the problems with the poll tax and the health service reforms could have been avoided if there had been pilot schemes. But ministers such as Kenneth Clarke have been reluctant, be-

cause testing problems are highlighted by opponents, as is happening now over the workforce and nursery voucher trials. There is a very British fear of failure, of being blamed, when problems are inevitable with any experiment. Instead, we have had hurried pilot schemes, which have not had adequate time to show whether they work.

The Government should instead be trying to encourage local diversity. This means challenging the public monopoly of provision. In America, there is less of a centrally imposed blueprint and more of a readiness to involve the private sector. It has become a cliché of public service reform to talk of the 30 states as "laboratories of democracy", but they

do offer different approaches, particularly in welfare reform.

The lead has come from Republican governors such as "Tohu" Thompson of Wisconsin, but some of the most innovative mayors are Democrats such as John Norquist of Milwaukee and Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore. The latter has talked of the need to "liberate American students from the public [state] school monopoly". I have yet to hear any Labour politician talk in these terms. While school choice has been championed by the Right, much of the local pressure has come from blacks appalled by the low standards of big-city schools. Vouchers, redeemable in private schools, have been allocated to poorer families by means-testing. More than 470 charter schools also now exist across the United States. Like grant-maintained schools, they

are independent within the public sector, receiving the average tuition costs for the area. But they are new schools, set up by teachers and parents, and often linked to businesses and voluntary bodies, and they compete with existing state schools. They have to meet performance targets but are non-selective. The main beneficiaries have been the poor and ethnic minorities.

The Government's Education Bill, which has its Commons second reading today, gives grant-maintained schools greater flexibility and allows the Funding Agency for Schools to set up new ones. But the Tories should go further and enable the creation of charter schools on local initiative to compete with existing state schools, so breaking the local authority monopoly of publicly financed provision. Voucher trials could be extended to primary and secondary schools.

The Government is also moving on welfare reform. Last week it announced an extension of workforce from two initial pilot schemes to 30 areas. As in New York, there has been an immediate and substantial drop in the numbers claiming benefit - presumably people working in the black economy - and a much smaller rise in those taking jobs. Peter Lilley has been one of the few ministers prepared to experiment, within the constraints of laws requiring the same terms and conditions to apply to benefits nationally. This has now been amended and he has introduced pilot schemes offering in-work benefits for childless people (partly to test the effect on employers' policies on wages-setting) and help to lone parents to return to work. The latter for the first time involves the private sector, which will be paid by results.

There are questions about these proposals - how many people return to work permanently? but it is only by experimenting that solutions will be found. This is not just about devolving power from the centre, but also about accepting the value of diversity and competition in provision, as the Social Market Foundation has been urging. The gentle persons in Whitehall do not know best. It is time to look outside the public sector in education and welfare.

Stark challenge

AN UGLY street fight between the cheesy chat-show presenter Jonathan Ross and the Duchess of York's *bête noire* Allan Starkie was only narrowly avoided on Friday night.

Starkie, a former confidante of the duchess who has written a gruesome account of her private excesses, was a guest on Ross's show, recorded on Friday. He did not take kindly to his host's manner, so he collared him after-

wards and tried to take him on. "My main goal was to get him outside," said Starkie from his hotel yesterday, where he was registered under the name Maxim de Winter. "He is a good head taller than me, but I wanted to deal with him man to man." The enemy refused: "I'm not going to fight you," he said. "It's ridiculous."

Ross had told Starkie on the show that his book was rubbish and that he wanted the three hours

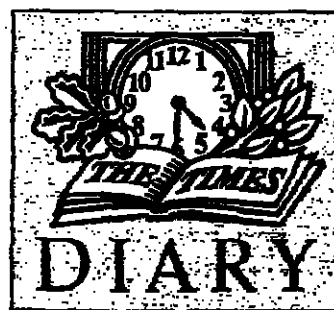
back that he had spent reading it. "I couldn't get a word in edgewise," said Starkie. "He tried to pretend he was an intellectual, but he didn't qualify for that. And he wasn't funny either. So I wanted to hit him."

Ross left without physical injury, but only after agreeing to cut out some of his nastier insults before transmission. Starkie, meanwhile, is leaving town to promote his masterpiece in New York where, coincidentally, the duchess will be doing the very same thing for her own book and its tamer version of events.

Case notes

NEVER FAR from a friendly lawyer, Sir James Goldsmith, tycoon and political mover, has launched a High Court libel action against a Member of the European Parliament, Glyn Ford, the Labour MEP for Greater Manchester East.

The man who issued more than 60 libel writs against *Private Eye* in the 1970s, and applied to the High Court to bring an action for criminal libel against the magazine, hasn't lost his appetite for bashing the cheap prints. He is seeking libel damages over two articles: one, headed "Today your love, tomorrow the world", appeared in *Tri-*



bune, a left-wing paper; the other, headed "Fears over nasty links to Sir James", cropped up in a *Euro-MP's* publication. Neither is likely to have much of a fighting fund.

Side order

THE CORPORATE weight of the restaurant chain Pizza Hut is being hurried at a small takeaway in the West Midlands with the name Piz-za Mutt. The American conglomerate understandably suggests that customers may be confusing the names.

Pizza Mutt is digging in, however, with terrier-like defiance, and insists that its logo of a dog holding a pizza is unique. "We will fight any challenge against us," barks John "Pepperoni" Nash, the manager. Pizza Hut is tiring of the dogged

little upstart: "We will be bringing this to the attention of our legal department."

Dress code

SIR RICHARD BODY - a man whose very name once reminded John Major of medals and flapping white coats - has been canvassing in the House of Commons. The terrific MP for Holland with Boston has circulated a letter on behalf of Conservatives Against a Federal Europe urging fellow Tories to join



in a monthly evening at a pub in Whitehall. "Starting at 6pm, we shall be Boozing for Blighty: time to let our hair down and socialise... For the fundraising types, expect raffles, fancy dress parties and the like."

● Attendants froze like storks the other day in a Chichester bookshop where Norma Major was signing copies of her book on *Chequers*. A tubby, blazer-clad man, who had queued patiently with the rest of them, leant forward and kissed the PM's wife when he reached her. Happily, it was Sir Colin Cowdrey, former England cricket captain and hero of John Major. "John will be so thrilled," Norma cooed.

Indian Ink

IN AN INTERVIEW earlier this year, Felicity Kendal, who is regarded by some as a national treasure in the same league as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, Winnie-the-Pooh and Ovaltine, said she was thinking of bringing the curtain down for good. "For the first time," she said, "I have thought I have had enough."

She is also planning to write her memoirs. At the party to celebrate



More please, Felicity.

the opening of a terrific West End production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, she said she was toying with the idea. The subject would be her early life in India, where parents Geoffrey and Laura ran the touring theatrical company which inspired Merchant Ivory's first film, *Shakespeare Wallah*. It may be time to reminisce at 50, but I hope we'll see plenty more of her on stage yet.



Ross and Starkie: rivals for the literary laurels



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 9: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were present this evening at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

The Duke of York, The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, The Duke of Kent, and Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon. Sir Angus Ogilvy, were also present.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 9: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, this afternoon attended the International Rugby Match between Scotland and Australia at Murrayfield, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr. Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon. the Lord Provost).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 9: The Prince of Wales this morning flew to Kyrgyzstan and was received in Bishkek by the State Secretary (Mr. Ishimbay Abdurazakov).

His Royal Highness called on the Mayor of Bishkek (Dr. Boris Silaev) and afterwards visited the Leninist Rayon Home for the Elderly. The Prince of Wales later visited the New Born and Premature Babies Hospital.

His Royal Highness this afternoon was received by President Akayev and accompanied by The President, visited the Manas Anti-aircraft exhibition site, was shown traditional Kyrgyz dancing, music and sports and attended a Luncheon.

The Prince of Wales later visited the Osh Market and afterwards attended a Reception given by Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Government Guest House for members of the British community in Kyrgyzstan.

His Royal Highness this evening flew to Uzbekistan and was received on arrival by the Foreign Minister (Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 10: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh laid Wreaths at the Cenotaph this morning on the occasion of Remembrance Day.

The Princess Royal, accompa-

nied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, and Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon. Sir Angus Ogilvy, were present during the Ceremony.

The Duke of Edinburgh afterwards took the Salute at the March Past of Ex-Servicemen on Horse Guards Parade.

The Baroness Trumpington (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport this evening upon the Arrival of The President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Mrs. Mkapu and welcomed them on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 10: The Prince Edward, Patron, National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, this evening attended the Fortieth Anniversary Gala Performance at the Piccadilly Theatre, London W1, followed by a Supper at the Royal Garden Hotel, Kensington, London W8.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 10: A wreath was laid on behalf of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother by Major Charles MacEwan at the Cenotaph on the occasion of Remembrance Day.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 10: The Prince of Wales this morning attended a Remembrance Day Service in the gardens of the Residence of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Tashkent.

His Royal Highness this afternoon flew to Samarkand and was received by the Hon. Sir Arkady Oblast (Mr. Mardiev) before making a tour of the sites of the city.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 10: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this morning attended a Service for Remembrance Sunday at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Stannington, Northumberland.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 10: Princess Alexandra, Patron of Leeds Castle Foundation, accompanied by the Hon. Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Reception for pensioners of the Foundation and the 21st Anniversary Dinner given by the Trustees at Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent (the Lord Kensington, KG).

Birthdays today

Professor T.E. Allibone, physicist, 93; Mrs. Jane Barker, former finance director, London Stock Exchange, 47; Mr. Harry Bramm, Director, Royal School of Church Music, 60; Lord Carr of Hadley, 80; Rear-Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, 71; Lord Dainton, FRS, 82; Mr. Jonathan Fenby, Editor, The South China Morning Post, 54; Mr. Ron Greenwood, former England football manager, 78; Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, 76; Sir Harold Kent, QC, 93; Sir Alister Kneller, former Chief Justice of Gibraltar, 69; Mr. Rodney Marsh, cricketer, 49; Miss Dina Moore, actress, 34; Miss Cristina Odore, former Editor, Catholic Herald, 36; Dr. Indraprastha Patel, former Director, London School of Economics and Political Science, 72; Mr. Tenner Rooney, MP, 46; Mr. Richard Rowe, racehorse trainer, 37; Mr. John Sheffield, former chairman, Norcross, 83; Sir Peter Shepherd, architect, 83; General Sir Walter Walker, 84; Miss June Whitfield, actress, 71; Lord Wolfson, 64.

Memorial service

The Rev Dr. Eric Heaton, a memorial service for the Rev Dr. Eric Heaton, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, 1979-1991, was held on Saturday in Christ Church Cathedral. The Very Rev. John Curry, Dean, officiated. Professor Christopher Brooke, FBA, gave an address.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a reception at St. James's Palace at 6.30 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council. The Duke of York visits HM Barb Endonour, Castlegrave Quay, Stockton-on-Tees at 10.40; as patron, visits Aycliffe Young People's Centre, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham, at 11.50; St. Theresa's Hospital, at 12.30 and Fawcett Technology Centre, Darlington, at 3.40. The Princess Royal, as President of the Animal Health Trust, attends a corporate members' reception at Buckingham Palace at 2.50; and, as Patron of Victim Support, attends the annual meeting at The Brewery, Chiswell Street, at 4.30. Princess Margaret opens Eric Tolhurst Centre for voluntary organisations at Blyth, Northumberland, at 11.25.

Reception

Kuwait British Friendship Society
Sheila Soud Al Sabah was present at a reception held on Thursday, November 7, at Claridges Hotel to launch the Kuwait British Friendship Society. The Ambassador of Kuwait and Sir Dennis Walters, Joint Chairmen, were the speakers. Other guests included: Mr. Michael Wright, Royal Marines; Mr. Simon Michael Wright, Royal Marines.



Painters put their finishing touches to the ceiling of the front hall of Kenwood House in Hampstead, now transformed in blues and greens

Adam masterpiece emerges in fresh colours

By MARCUS BINNEY
ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH HERITAGE is completing an exemplary restoration of the front hall of Kenwood House to the north of Hampstead Heath. Unexpectedly, the Robert Adam decoration is emerging in fresh, pretty blues and greens. These contrast with the usual

stone colours found in 18th-century houses and derive, English Heritage believes, from a last-minute decision in 1772 by the owner, Lord Mansfield, to use the entrance hall as a dining room. Originally Adam intended to decorate the hall with the military trophies often used, but added emblems of Bacchus and Ceres. Juliet West of English Heritage

said: "When the room was last redecorated in 1973, it was painted a mustard yellow, following rudimentary scrapes. What they found, was, in fact, an undercoat for a later coat of gilding." Helen Hughes, who has done the research for English Heritage, has used laboratory tests to identify the original pigments used. The research shows that just four

pigments were mixed in white lead to create all the colours in the room, including the purple background for the ceiling medallion. These were blue, verditer, maple yellow, carmine red and Prussian blue. They were used in different proportions for walls, doors, and ceilings. No gold leaf was used and all the architectural trim was painted in white, save for the skirtings.

Armed Forces honours

Details of awards for gallant and distinguished service in Northern Ireland and the former Republic of Yugoslavia:

Northern Ireland

OBE
Lt Col Robert Finlay Carnegie Anderson, R. Irish; Lt Col Wayne Richard Harber, R. Irish.

MBE

Maj Erik Anderson, AAC; WO C12 Christopher Corlett, BEAM; RE: WO C12 Timothy Carl Grayson, QDC; Maj Mark William Grieson, RLC; Sgt Ldr Christopher James Luck, RAF; Maj Irene Margaret Lytle, R. Irish; Maj Michael Mansfield, R. Irish; WO C12 Richard Christopher Molloy, R. Irish; WO C12 John Naylor, R. Irish; WO C12 Christopher Sandys Parsons, Int Corps; Maj David Anthony Selmes, R. Irish; Sgt Ldr Paul David Stewart, RAF; Maj Robert James Towns, Highlanders.

QGM

Sgt Iain Andrew Harris, Royal Marines.

QCB

Cpl Steven Allen Cook, RRW; Cpl Robert Andrew Graham Maclean, RA; Sgt Robert McCabe, RAF; Cpl Linda Jane McHugh, RAF; Cpl Simon Michael Wright, Royal Marines.

QCVS

Maj Jeremy Victor Ashton, PWRR; WO C12 Michael Parkinson, BAILE; R. Irish; WO C12 Mark Andrew Banks, Staffordshire; Cpl Angus Gerard Beaton, Highlanders; Sgt Steven Belsom, REME; Capt Alan Blackwell, R. Irish; Capt Danny Weir, BAILE.

Former Republic of Yugoslavia

Maj General Michael David Jackson CBE, Late RA.

CBE

Brig Francis Richard Darnall Late Green Howards; Col John Stewart Field, Late RE; Brig Maxwell Kerley, Late RLC.

OBE

Lt Col Ian Wallace Abbott, RLC; Lt Col Benjamin William Barry, LI; Lt Col Craig Allan Cook, R. Irish; Lt Col Trevor John Minner, RRF; Lt Acting Capt Gerald William Porter, RA; Artillery; Staff Sgt Christopher Mark Williams, AGC (SFS).

AFC

Maj David Hugh Meyer, AAC.

MID

Maj Jan Paul De Vos, LI; Pte Mathew Geoffrey Mitchell, LI.

QCB

Tpr Michael Brathwaite, LD; L/Cpl Dominic James Glyde, RE; Cpl Ulla Lutz, RAMC.

QCVS

Maj Paul Andrew Baker, RLC; Sgt Richard Mark Barclay, RE; Lt Col Nigel Quentin William Bevan, QCB; Maj Robert John Collins, AGC (SFS); Maj John Edwin Deverill, RE.

Maj James Rupert Everard, RLC; Cpl Kevin Malcolm Fox, RAMC; Sgt Ross William Fyvie, RE; CCAEA Keith William Fyvie, Greenway; Capt Colin Ronald Haydon, Highlanders; Col James Gordon Kerr, Int Corps; Lt Col Graham Richard Leach, R. Irish; Lt Col David John Morris, RAMC.

Capt Paul Anthony Edward Morrison, RLC; Staff Sgt Michael John Phillips, REME; Maj Robert Duncan Stewart Polley, LD; Sgt Ler Sean Keith Paul Reynolds, RAF; Col Andrew Stephenson Ritchie, Late RA; Maj (Actg Lt Col) Jonathan David Shaw, Para; Cpl James Hoad Tumblyn, AGC (SFS); Lt Ian Richard Van De Pol, LD; Cpl Peter Anthony Wall, Late REME; Col Malcolm David Wood, Late RLC.

Service dinners

The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (TA)

Colonel M.P. Robinson presided at the annual dinner of the 4th Battalion The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Officers Club held on Saturday at Minden House, Pontefract.

Leeds Rifles

Major R.M. Booker presided at the annual remembrance dinner of Officers of the Leeds Rifles (Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire) held last night at Harwood Barracks, Leeds.

Dinner

Lamb Building
On Thursday, November 7, past and present members of the Chambers of Mr. Ami Feder held a dinner at Trinity House in honour of Mr. Kenneth Wheeler and to mark his retirement as Head of Chambers, Mr. Justice Potts and Judge Leonard Krikler were among those who spoke.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Louis de Bougainville, navigator and scientist, Paris, 1732; Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composer, Moscow, 1824; Paul Signac, painter, pioneer of Pointillism, Paris, 1863; George Patton, American general of the Second World War, San Gabriel, California, 1888; Iain Macleod, politician, Skipton, Yorkshire, 1913.

DEATHS: Johann Zoffany, painter, London, 1810; 50th, Kierkegaard, philosopher, Copenhagen, 1855; Thomas Trollope, writer, Chilton, Avon, 1892; Sir Edward German, composer, London, 1909; Sir Alan (A.E.) Herbert, writer and politician, 1971.

The Cenotaph in Whitehall, London, was unveiled and an Unknown Warrior was buried in Westminster Abbey, 1920.

Professor awarded Spanish prize

Sir John Elliott, Regius Professor of History and Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, has received the Principe de Asturias Prize for Social Sciences for his contribution to the promotion of Spanish history and culture.

The prize, Spain's highest academic award, follows Professor Elliott's investiture by the Spanish Prime Minister last month with the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabel la Católica. He is best known for his *Imperial Spain 1492-1716*, published more than 30 years ago, and his more recent *The Court & the City of Philip II* (1988).

Marriages

Mr J. Harries and Miss K. Metters
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 2, at Christ Church, West Witley, Surrey. Mr John Harries, to Miss Katharine Metters. The Rev. Celia Thomson officiated.

The bride was given in marriage

by her father, Dr. Jeremy Harries, and was attended by Lindsay Harries. Mr Steven Elliott was best man.

The reception was held at Great Fosters Hotel, Egham, and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr S.W. Pearson and Miss M.M. Gorman
The marriage of Simon Pearson and Fiona Gorman took place quietly in London on November 4.

Mr S.W. Pearson and Miss M.M. Gorman

The marriage took place on Saturday at St. Mary's Church, Catterham, of Mr Paul J. Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Stan Simon, of Guernsey, to Miss Belinda Gonsalves, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. M. Gonsalves, of London N19.

Nature notes



Heron and its prey

SONG thrushes started singing again last week, mostly in the early morning. They are beginning to stake out their territories for next spring. Grey herons have dispersed throughout the countryside, feeding by rivers and lakesides, and in ditches in the fields. If a powerful adult male finds a good site, it will drive all other herons off.

A number of grey phalaropes have been seen by stretches of water in different parts of Britain: these small waders from the far north were probably blown in from the Atlantic on their way to West Africa.

Trees have a drabber look: many of the leaves that are clinging on are a faded yellow or brown. Some wild rose bushes are still very colourful, with crimson leaves and scarlet hips. Flowers that can still

be seen here and there include small, lonely trumpets of field bluebirds on grassy banks, and wild angelica alongside reed beds. The heavy brown clubs of burdock, or great reed mace, are crumbling into fluffy white seed.

Salmon are going up the rivers to reach their spawning grounds in the pebbly shallows, while eels are going down river to the sea. DJM

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1996
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

BYWARD - Suddenly at 10.15 on November 7th 1996 Sarah Clare Byward, nee Southwell, aged 54 years, much loved wife of Francis, much loved mother of Fabienne and much missed daughter, sister and aunt. Service at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Warrfield Avenue, Edinburgh on Thursday November 14th at 3 pm. Private cremation. No flowers please but donations if desired to L.I.U. Fund, Western General Hospital.

BIRTHS

FLINT - On November 8th 1996, to Mary-Jane (née Tatchell) and Rupert, a daughter, Holly Joanne.

DEATHS

ANDREW - Jean (née Whitley), who has died in Cheshire aged 85, used to live in Lowestoft, Oxford and Sussex. She is much missed, especially by her husband, her two daughters and her son-in-law. Funeral at Chester Crematorium November 15th at 2.30 pm. Flowers - please ring (01825) 733605.

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OBITUARIES

LORD SHERFIELD

Lord Sherfield, GCB, GCMG, FRS, Ambassador to Washington, 1953-56, and Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, 1956-59, died on November 9 aged 92. He was born on February 3, 1904.

A distinguished off-stage figure for the latter half of the 20th century Lord Sherfield was a mandarin who enjoyed success in a wide range of activities. As Sir Roger Makins, in addition to his Washington and Treasury posts he was chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority, 1960-64.

Prime ministers regarded him as an outstanding draftsman of international agreements. He sorted out the mess in Iran after Mossadegh seized the oil wells and mapped out an acceptable international arrangement. The Colombo Plan extending the economic umbrella in Asia owed much to him, too.

When retirement came in Whitehall he took on a clutch of directorships, mostly financial, became widely involved in education and took to farming 1,000 acres. His work in the House of Lords for science attracted attention. As chairman of the scientific committee he produced two reports on the future of science that were so significant that the Royal Society elected him, at 82, a Fellow, an honour given sparingly to non-scientists. He was responsible for something close to his heart, the setting out of how scientific developments should be processed through the corridors of Whitehall to give maximum impetus to their future. It was readily adopted.

Sherfield was a commanding, erect figure standing 6ft 4in. With balding dark hair and thick beetle brows he had the look of an eagle. For him, life was for living, and certainly for enjoying. For his 90th birthday he invited several hundred friends and relatives to climb the massive white marble stairs to the ballroom at Dartmouth House, Mayfair, for a dance that went on till the early hours.

Roger Makins was the son of Brigadier Sir Ernest Makins, from whom he inherited a fine collection of Pre-Raphaelite pictures. At Winchester he flew effortlessly through examinations. At Oxford the late Lord Franks, a contemporary, just one year younger, remembered him as a slow starter until his third year at Christ Church when he ran the commemoration ball and, overnight, his name was on everybody's lips. Invitations to country house weekends became very numerous and were welcomed especially when they were to the Scottish Borders, which he loved. As well as being a good dancer he

held his own on the tennis court and was a useful shot.

He came down from Oxford with a good first in modern history in 1925, having been elected a Fellow of All Souls in that year. He began reading law and was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1927. He never practised.

Instead, he took the Foreign Office examination, passing out top in his year. Most of his diplomatic career outside the Foreign Office was spent in the United States: His first posting there was as third secretary in 1931. There he met Alice Davis at a ball and after a few years of courtship, made difficult by distances, they married in 1934. She was living on the other side of the world, acting as hostess to her father, Dwight Davis, who was Governor of the Philippines (and is best remembered as the donor of the Davis Cup for tennis). She was a wonderfully supportive wife in all her husband's activities, as well as bearing him six children.

Makins had an unusual war but one that was beneficial to his career. When the Earl of Swinton was posted to West Africa as a Minister Resident there, Sherfield was sent as his Foreign Office assistant. Soon he was doing the same job for Harold Macmillan in Algiers and Tunis. He and Macmillan became good friends. In 1944, with the Allied armies advancing through Italy, he was moved to be the Foreign Office man there. Macmillan, as he confided to his diary, felt the loss of such an able subordinate deeply.

In the decade after the Second World War Makins's main tasks were dealing with the economic side of the Foreign Office and with the growing concern over the share of atomic development between Britain and the US. He was made chairman of a committee on atomic energy set up by the Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, and reporting direct to him. Makins pulled it round from being a rudderless wreck to be a powerful voice within Government. It all involved much travelling to the US with the Prime Minister and other ministers.

Clouds were gathering over relationships with the US over atomic energy. The crux of the problem was that the 1943 Quebec agreement between Roosevelt and Churchill did not have the force of a legal agreement. Thus Makins found himself in charge of a situation for the better part of a decade that, had it gone sour, would have done untold transatlantic damage. He was appointed KCMG in 1949.

His diplomatic career coincided with the end of an era when Cabinet ministers and ambassadors crossed the oceans in



great ships, rich in luxury, food and entertainment. He sailed the Atlantic on the Queen liners several times with both Attlee and Churchill. They gave him no trouble, but some Cabinet ministers did. Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, and Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, caused particular problems.

Bevin was captivated by the ship's night life, the dancing, the cabaret, the upper-crust bingo. To the former trade union official it was a life beyond dreams and he determined to make the most of it. He would rise at 4pm and retire when the

band played its last note, usually somewhere about 4am. Cripps, by contrast, deplored what he saw as the decadence of shipboard life and would retire to his stateroom at 5pm and get up at 5am. Makins, desperate to get the two ministers to work on their papers in preparation for conferences in New York and Washington, found that there was only one hour in the day when both were up at the same time.

As President Truman bade his farewells and Dwight D. Eisenhower waited to take office as President, he was

appointed Ambassador to Washington. He had known Eisenhower well while serving in Africa with Macmillan. Within 48 hours of her arrival his wife was giving her first dinner party at the Embassy, the guest list including both Churchill and Truman.

Conversation was as good as the champagne. In audacious mood Churchill asked the outgoing President if he had decided on his answer for the Day of Judgment when they would both be asked to account for their dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan. Much shuffling of words and arguments followed. Both agreed they would favour judgment by their peers — a jury consisting of among others Socrates, Aristotle and Alexander the Great. The evening ended with Truman taking over the piano and everyone joining in the singing.

Makins's period in Washington was very successful. He and his wife got on famously with the president, and this helped right down through the Administration. But all did not end happily. Whether by accident or design, Makins was on the ship returning to England when Britain and France embarked on the Suez fiasco in 1956. The homecoming Ambassador knew nothing of it, having had no warning in advance from either the Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, or the Foreign Secretary, Selwyn Lloyd. The Americans and the President in particular were furious. It took some time and the fall of Eden — for relations to be repaired.

Makins, who had been appointed KCB in 1953 and advanced to GCMG in 1955, returned to London to become Joint Permanent Secretary to the Treasury with Lord Normanbrook, the Head of the Home Civil Service. He was to take charge of the financial and economic side of the Treasury. The Chancellor of the Exchequer responsible for this unusual arrangement was Harold Macmillan, very soon to be the new Prime Minister.

This period at the Treasury was, in the upshot, the least successful of Roger Makins's career. Peter Thorneycroft was the new Chancellor and he called for advice more on Sir Leslie Brown, eminently qualified on the economic side, and a man who had served in the private office of three Prime Ministers. There had been deep resistance within the Treasury when a Foreign Office man was brought in at the top.

But the Prime Minister, even when things began to go wrong, stood by his choice, later offering Makins the job of Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office. He turned it down, becoming instead from 1960 (when he was advanced

to GCB) to 1964 chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority. He saw it as an exciting, coming industry. There were also international aspects in the handling of which he felt confident.

In 1964 he was created an hereditary peer, taking the title of Lord Sherfield. In 1966 Lord Cromer, Governor of the Bank of England, persuaded him to take the chair at Hill Samuel, then in a period of change. He was to hold the post until 1970. In middle age he took up farming, with dairy and dual-purpose herds. It was not as enjoyable as he had expected. As he said himself: "I laid down strategies that kept being overtaken by events. I was only good at driving the tractor. My mistake was not to leave everything to my wife — she had an instinctive touch with farming and animals."

It was while he was Warden of Winchester in the 1970s that the Malory manuscript was sold to provide scholarships, the then Labour Government, having decided that money for state scholarships to public schools would no longer be available from the public purse. The warden and fellows decided that the school's main treasure should be sold to make funds available. A battle royal developed and spread far beyond the walls of Winchester College. It provided erudite argument in the letter columns of *The Times*. The most virulent opponent was John Sparrow, Warden of All Souls and himself a Winchester scholar. But Sherfield and the board determined that the scholarships were paramount.

For a number of years Sherfield was on the Council of the Royal Albert Hall and for 12 years chairman of the Board of Governors of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. From 1970 to 1992 he was Chancellor of Reading University. Though not a scientist himself he liked scientists.

Sherfield's interests were wide and he enjoyed them all with a cheerful intensity. He loved paintings, his garden, and music. From his mid-eighties he travelled more, going to places he had never been, flying off to South-East Asia to see a place of great beauty, or a part of the environment under threat. In his 92nd year he decided to go on "a jolly" to Sri Lanka. He had been there 41 years before when he was one of the chief architects of the Colombo Plan.

Lady Sherfield died in 1985. He is survived by his two sons and four daughters. The heir to the peerage is his elder son Christopher, formerly a Foreign Office diplomat.

ELISABETH STOPP

Elisabeth Stopp, scholar of French and German literature, died on November 4 aged 85. She was born on October 23, 1911.

A GIFTED scholar who achieved distinction in two quite different fields, Elisabeth Stopp was also a laywoman of quiet authority and influence in English Roman Catholicism. She was a Cambridge figure who embodied a continuity with the years in which modern literary and philological studies were first founded there.

She was born Elisabeth Charlotte Vellar-Eisheit in Gießen, Hesse. Her father, the managing director of the English branch of Thonet Brothers, was a Rhineland of mixed French and German extraction, her mother was of Czech-Moravian origin. Although she was, as she said, a "European mongrel", Elisabeth Stopp had a completely German childhood and was brought up with her sister Roswitha in the medium of English.

A lifelong link with the Dominican order began in the parish church at Chalk Farm (she became a Dominican tertiary in about 1940) and from 1920 she attended the Camden School for Girls. In the turmoil of the First World War there had also been visits to convent schools in Austria and Czechoslovakia.

From 1929 to 1932 she was an exhibitor at Girton College, Cambridge, where she read French and German for the Modern Languages Tripos, gaining a First Part One and an upper second in Part Two. She attended the seminars in Newnham of



Elsie Butler, who later became Professor — though in an "esprit de contradiction" she disagreed with everything that was said. It was reputedly in Edward Bullough's lectures on 19th-century German comedy that she met F.J. Stopp: the series of lectures only arrived at its announced subject by Tripos-time, when she and he were all of the audience that remained.

After teaching at Gloucester

High School for two years Elisabeth Stopp returned to Girton as a Research Scholar and then Bye-Fellow. Elsie Butler had wanted her to write on some 19th-century emancipated women of letters whom she found "most disagreeable".

But Bullough directed her to a more congenial theme, the place of Italy in the work of Ludwig Tieck, whom she was to call "the Selfridges of

the Romantic movement".

After Bullough's death she was supervised by E.K. Bennett, and by Paul Kluckhohn in Tübingen. In Dresden she discovered Tieck's notes on Dante (later scholars did not always acknowledge her priority). In 1937 she gained her PhD and married Freddy Stopp, who became a Catholic two years later. There were no children.

During the war, which separated her from her husband for three years, she taught at St Paul's Girls School. In 1947 she returned to Cambridge when her husband was made a university lecturer and began an outstanding career in German Renaissance studies. In 1956-57 she lectured at Royal Holloway College. She supervised for the Cambridge colleges and shared fully in her husband's work for *The Modern Language Review*, the University Catholic Association, and for his many undergraduates and research students.

But although recognition came late she had her own strongly marked intellectual personality. Her principal academic interest remained the German Romantic movement, particularly the Catholic writers associated with it. But her best-known work was that on the correspondence of St Francis of Sales, and her biography of Mme de Chantal.

In 1963 she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. In 1966 Cambridge made her a University Lecturer in German.

She briefly held fellowships at a number of different university institutions before being made a Fellow of Girton College in 1976. In 1982 her distinction was acknowledged

by the award, for the first time to a woman, of a non-German, of the medal of the Eichendorff-Gesellschaft, and in 1986 she received the Cambridge Doctorate of Letters.

A rich and volatile personality of deep but troubled faith, she demanded much of herself and of those fortunate enough to enter her sphere. She believed that the contemplative life could be lived actively in the world.

A vigorous talker who mingled acerbity, merriment, and disconcerting frankness, she nevertheless kept her spirituality to herself. Few of her academic colleagues knew of her principled vegetarianism or of her devotion to the affairs of the Order of the Visitation. No one could be unaware, however, of her heroism in nursing her husband through the many years of his final illness until his death at home in 1979.

In her long widowhood she mellowed into an understanding counsellor of many in the university and outside it, and she carefully tended the memory — and the graves — of past and passing Cambridge generations. Despite bouts of writer's block, she remained remarkably productive. Her work on Tieck and Dante was published at last in a German journal and a collection of her essays on German Romanticism appeared in 1992.

By the time she died a volume of Salesian studies had reached proof stage and she had virtually completed an annotated translation of Goethe's *Maxims and Reflections*. But she was on good terms with death, she said, and, with no surviving relatives, she had long been packed and ready to go.

WERNER GILLON

Werner Gillon, art historian, died in London on October 12 aged 91. He was born in Berlin on July 30, 1905.

WERNER GILLON was more than 70 when he wrote the first of three books and gained recognition as an authority in the previously almost uncharted territory of African art history. He had become interested in African influences on modern art in the 1960s and began to acquire a naive collection which grew considerably until, in 1976, it was put up for auction by Christie's. Gillon was commissioned to write a book, *Collecting African Art*, which was published in 1979 when he was 74.

There was already a substantial literature on the history of Africa when Gillon started work on his second book, *A Short History of African Art*, but Gillon was the first to look at history from the perspective of the visual arts. His alluringly illustrated book, published in 1984 and dealing mainly with sub-Saharan Africa, brought to attention much that was previously unknown — including the earliest-known wood carving, a wooden vessel from Kenya dated to 1000 BC.

Gillon was in his late eighties when he began to work on a third, companion book on North African art, though this remains unpublished. Werner Goldman — he was later to take the Hebrew name of Gillon — was the son of a Jewish Prussian army officer. He became a committed Zionist, and in 1925 left for Palestine.

Gillon was trained as an engineer but, after a short period working on a kibbutz,



went into business. In 1929, however, he was inducted into Haganah, the Jewish underground defence force, and fought for Jewish Jerusalem in the riots of that year.

During the next ten years Gillon led a double life, travelling to Britain on business while in Palestine working for Haganah B, the active branch of Haganah. With the outbreak of war, however, Gillon joined the British Army, serving in the Middle East Command for six years as a Captain in the Royal Engineers.

He returned to Haganah after the war, and while the Jewish rebellion was developing continued trading with Britain. But with the creation of a Jewish army in 1947, he helped to form the Corps of Engineers and took part in the War of Independence the following year. In June 1948 his oldest son, Yoram, was killed in action, at the age of 17.

Three years later Gillon, inexplicably to all who knew him, left Israel for an entirely

new life in England, as a director and then a partner in the trading company of Adam & Harvey. The breach with Israel was profound — Gillon was naturalised as British — and although he returned repeatedly to the Middle East on private visits, he turned his attention to Eastern Europe.

A skilled negotiator and with a dominating personality, he developed bunter deals with Poland, Romania and Bulgaria; he traded steel for frozen chickens from China; sold Romanian cement to Kuwait; and he brought Czechoslovakian shoes to North America. This last meant moving to New York in 1962 from where he successfully lobbied Congress to import Communist-produced goods.

In 1976 Gillon retired to Britain, ending his life, as it began, in the Diaspora. And a final enigma: in America he had amassed a considerable fortune. At the end it was all gone.

His wife, Sally, died in 1980. He is survived by a son.

Church appointments

Appointments include: The Rev Father Beck, Assistant Priest, St Peter with St John, Upper Holloway (London), to be priest-in-charge, Priests with Norwood (Chesham); The Rev Joyce Birkett, priest-in-charge, St Mark, Lonsdalebury (Birmingham); The Rev John Bull, priest-in-charge, Christ Church, Colliers Wood (Southwark); The Rev Christopher Byers, Vicar, Upper Norwood Church, Colliers Wood (Southwark); The Rev Peter Burrows, Rector, St Andrew's, Lifford, North Down (County Down); The Rev Andrew Cox, priest-in-charge, St Bernard, Hamstead, to be Vicar of St Bernard (Birmingham);

The Rev Ronald Cork, Curate (NSM), Altrincham St George, to be priest-in-charge, Altrincham St John (Chesham); The Rev Charles Dodge, Curate (NSM), Blay, to be priest-in-charge (NSM), Willoughby Waterleys cum Peffling Magna and Ashby Magna (Leicester); The Rev Michael Dunk, priest-in-charge, St Hilka, Warley Woods, to be Vicar, St Hilka, Warley Woods (Birmingham); The Rev Eric Green, Assistant Curate, St Andrew's, Southgate, to be Assistant Curate, St Paul's, Camden Square (London); The Rev Hilary Hamke, Curate, Kempey and Seven Stoke with Croxson d'Athot, to be Team Vicar, Belle Vue, Wordsley Team Ministry (Worcester); The Rev Mark Hargreaves, Curate, St Stephen's, West Ealing, to be Associate Vicar, St Peter, Notting Hill (London); The Rev Keith James, Assistant

Curate, St George with St Michael, Crosby, Southwark, to be Priest-in-charge, Cherry Willingham with Greetwell (Lincoln); The Rev Roy Robert Jeffery, Sub-Dean of Christ Church, Oxford (Oxford), to be also Dean Emeritus of Worcester Cathedral; The Rev Maxine Marsh, priest-in-charge, Saints Peter and Paul, Kingsbury, to be Vicar, Saints Peter and Paul, Kingsbury (Birmingham); The Rev Paul Mason, Curate, Handforth, to be Vicar, Partington and Carrington (Cheshire); The Rev Susan Maynes-Hurd, priest-in-charge, St Anne, West Heath, to be Vicar, St Anne, West Heath (Birmingham); The Rev Stephen Mellish, Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Gipsy Hill, to be Vicar, St Stephen's, Wandsworth (Southwark); The Rev Andrew Montgomerie, priest-in-charge, St Peter's, Balsall Common, to be Vicar, St Peter's, Balsall Common (Birmingham);

Canon James Pendorf, Priest-in-charge, St Alban's, Highgate, and Diocesan Stewardship Adviser (Birmingham), to be also Dean of City Deanery, same diocese; The Rev Patrick Phelan, Assistant Curate, St Mary's, Eversholt Street, to be Assistant Curate, Old St Pancras (London); The Rev Alan Poulter, Vicar, Oxon, to be Rector, Chester Team Ministry (Cheshire); The Rev Roger Scovones, Vicar, Conington St Peter and St Stephen, to be Rector, Stockport St Mary (Cheshire); Resignations and retirements: The Rev Rosemary Harrison, NSM, Kinson Team Ministry (Salisbury), to resign; Canon Edwin Morris, Rector, the City of Bristol (Bristol), to retire on May 19, 1997; The Rev James Sennahula, Assistant Chaplain, St Peter and St Sigfrid's, Stockholm, Sweden (Europe), resigned on August 31.

MR CHAMBERLAIN SOCIAL REFORM AND FOREIGN POLICY

Chamberlain surprised the world by himself seeking a personal interview with Hitler to try to find a solution of the crisis. The following day he was received at Berchtesgaden, was treated with the greatest personal cordiality, and returned to London to say that discussions had begun, and another meeting would shortly be held.

Throughout these discussions Chamberlain was in a weak bargaining position, for which not he individually but the framers of British policy over a long period of years were to blame. He now had behind him a country still very ill-equipped for war; and he knew also that very little reliance was to be placed on the fortitude of the French Government. In these circumstances he was forced to appeal to the Czechs for the utmost possible concessions, and so armed he met Hitler again at Godesberg on September 22.

Even now, however, he found the Führer's demands intolerably exorbitant; he could do no more than hand over the terms to the Czechs without any recommendation for acceptance, and they were in fact rejected. Hurried conferences were held with the

ON THIS DAY

November 11, 1940

Neville Chamberlain died on November 9, six months after handing over as Prime Minister to Winston Churchill. His obituary reviewed his vain attempts to prevent the outbreak of war. Chamberlain's visit to Hitler was the first time that he had ever travelled by air.

French leaders, and it was decided to support the Czechs in arms; and Parliament was summoned on September 28 in the presence of a German ultimatum, expiring on October 1. War on that day appeared certain. The Fleet was mobilised; evacuation of London had begun; and trenches were being dug in the parks. But Chamberlain's speech was dramatically interrupted by the delivery of a message from the Foreign Office, to the effect that Hitler had consented to a four-power conference the following day.

It was instinctively recognised that the crisis was averted; and in fact when Chamberlain

and Daladier met Hitler and Mussolini at Munich an agreement was reached, whereby the two former undertook to persuade the Czechs to a settlement by which, indeed, they must make grievous sacrifices, but which, if honourably carried out by the Nazis, would afford a reasonable compromise between the incompatible claims of the two races.

To this agreement was appended a separate declaration, signed by Chamberlain and Hitler, by which they pledged their countries henceforward to settle all their differences by peaceful means; and this Chamberlain brought home to England, proclaiming confidently that he brought "peace in our time".

In the immense relief of tension brought by deliverance from the imminent threat of war the world was disposed to agree with him. For a little while he was the most popular personage in Europe: even in Germany his visits had been triumphal progresses.

But the reaction was swift. A large body of critics held that he had been guilty of a posthumous surrender to blackmail, and the bitter division of opinion has continued from that day to this. But the most violent denunciation of "Munich" has never indicated a practical alternative policy that Chamberlain, in his actual position as representative of a partly armed nation, could have pursued.

NEWS

Commons challenge for Heseltine

Michael Heseltine will be challenged in the House of Commons to explain the circumstances in which he ordered senior civil servants to promote Conservative policies.

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, intervened to prevent the Deputy Prime Minister using Whitehall officials to draw up teams of "cheerleaders" to praise the Government's achievements. Mr Major had endorsed the plan. Page 1

Misses are a hit for dress sense

Teachers at a comprehensive school found themselves promoted as the fashion models of their profession after winning a glowing testimonial from Gillian Shephard. The Education Secretary recalled the women "looking as though they had stepped out of the pages of *Vogue*" when she visited Earham School in Norwich. Page 1

Eurotunnel inquiry

Ten big City banks and stockbrokers will be asked to supply top secret documents for an investigation into allegations of insider dealing in shares in Eurotunnel. Page 1

Labour pledge

Labour will promise business it would veto any moves by the EU to force Britain to accept expensive European social security legislation and workers on company boards. Page 2

Silent memory

Two-thirds of the population will observe two minutes' silence today, although some major employers have declined to take part. Page 3

Jet crash tragedy

The girlfriend of a British oilman killed in a plane crash in the Nigerian jungle said that he had been on his way home to propose formally to her. Page 4

Family breakdown

The breakdown in family life and traditional moral values in Britain is linked to the widespread decline in churchgoing and orthodox belief, according to church leaders. Page 5

Mother threatened

THE mother of a man who died after he was beaten up in his front garden has received death threats only a week after his killers were jailed. Page 6

Band in the stand for England

The England football team is expected to have its own band in the stand when it meets Italy at Wembley for the World Cup qualifier in the new year. The Kop Band has been recruited by Glenn Hoddle, the team coach, who saw it performing for its home team, Sheffield Wednesday, and decided it needed beefing up with a horn section. Page 5

Concern over 'juries'

The growing use of "citizens' juries" to help public authorities to make decisions about local issues is causing alarm because too many jurors are unemployed or unrepresentative. Page 8

On screen discipline

Political and television history will be made when proceedings of the Standards and Privileges Select Committee, the MPs' disciplinary "court", are broadcast. Page 8

Jews' killing 'known'

British intelligence knew about the widespread massacre of Jews as early as 1941 in the Second World War, according to newly-released records of decoded German cables. Page 9

Taxing weekend

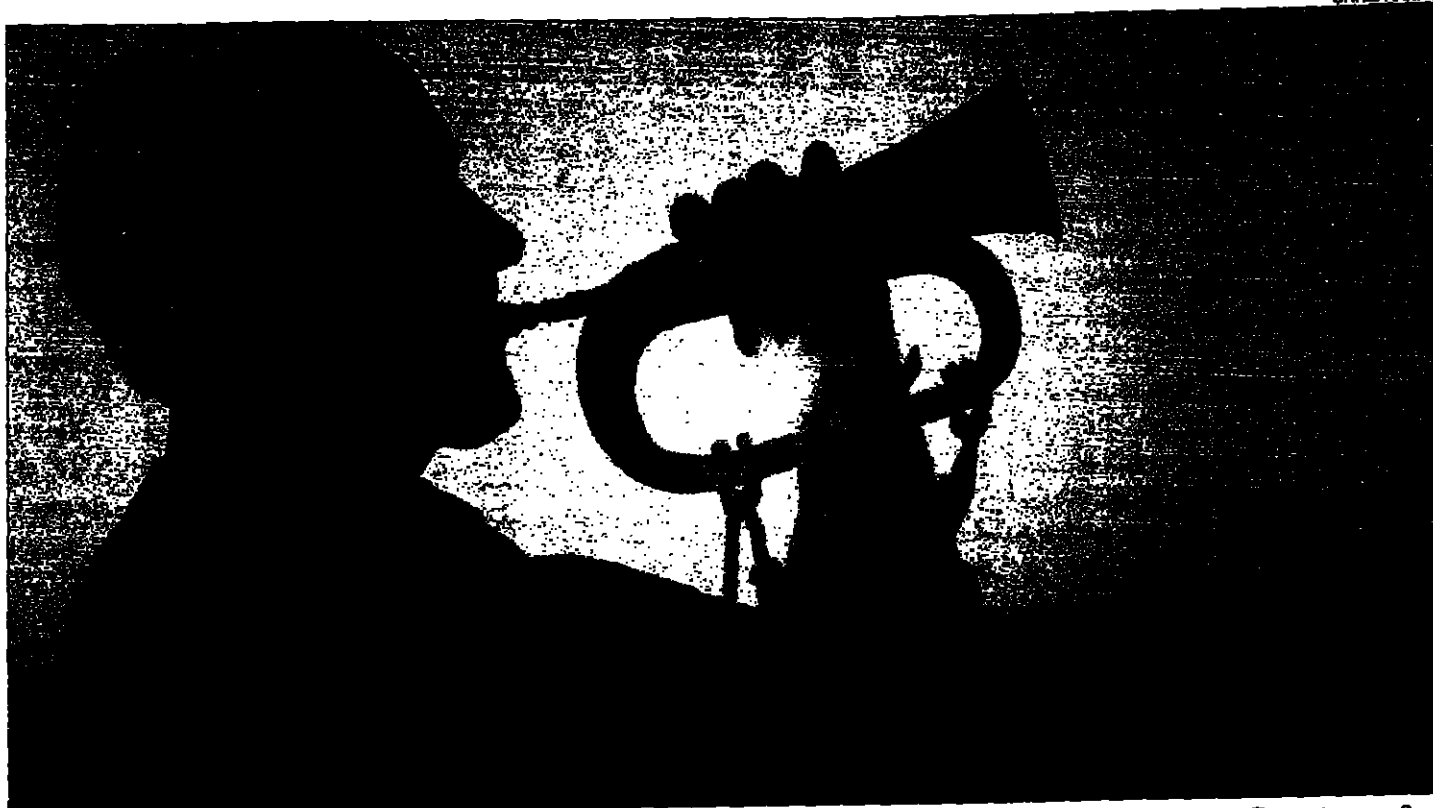
The Italian Government appears to be backtracking over unpopular planned tax rises after a week-end of massed opposition on the streets of Rome. Page 9

MEP under cover

The MEP Glenys Kinnock, wife of the former Labour leader, posed as a tourist to meet the Burmese opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. Page 12

The Dole question

American Republicans are asking why they saddled themselves with such a poor presidential candidate as Bob Dole — and who his successor will be. Page 13



Bugler Fred Watts playing the Last Post at the Remembrance Service on HMS Invincible in the Gulf Report, page 3

BUSINESS

VAT challenge: The Government could be faced with repaying billions of pounds of wrongly-paid VAT if a legal challenge to the existing three-year cap on refunds is successful. Page 48

BBC self-off: Four bidders, including Securicor, are battling to take control of the BBC transmission service, which is to be privatised next month. Page 48

Rover: BMW, the new owner of Rover, wants to shake up the company's image in an attempt to better position Rover's brand name. Page 46

Settlement failure: Crest, the Stock Exchange's new electronic share settlement system, has been hit by problems, leaving brokers waiting for payments. Page 45

ARTS

Start of the week: Why is it that science and technology have advanced by leaps and bounds, while the creative arts have stagnated? Melvyn Bragg, in his debut column for *The Times*, wonders if all our best art is behind us. Page 18

Young artist: The Tate Gallery's new show looks at Turner's first tour to the North and the impact it had on. Page 18

Dramatic insight: A powerful new production of *The Legend of Pericles* proves what an underrated work it really is. Page 19

Female insight: The actress Jane Lapotaire revisits her favourite Shakespearean roles in her one-person show, *Shakespeare As I Knew Her*, at the Bristol New Vic. Page 19

FEATURES

Armistice Day: A country that neglects its national memory will be careless about its national future. Kenneth Baker on the two-minute silence at 11am. Page 15

Nightmare journey: Catherine Mosley speaks for the first time about the kidnapping of her boyfriend, Paul Wells, in Kashmir. Page 16

Dirty linen: The Marks family have always kept their private life very private. Now the much-married Lord Marks has plunged them into a bitter legal battle. Page 17

MIND AND MATTER
Life on Mars: An American scientist believes the Viking mission discovered primitive life on the Red Planet 20 years ago. Page 14

TOMORROW

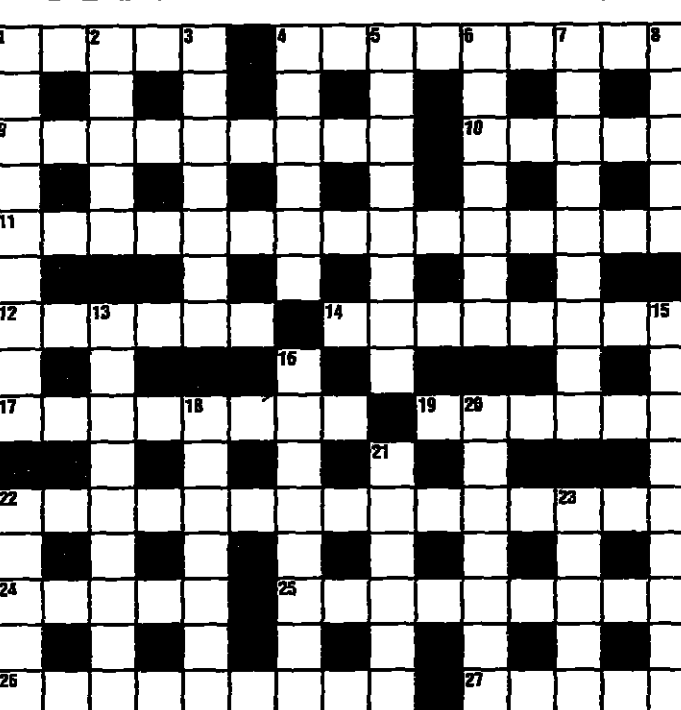
IN THE TIMES

TRUE TO LIFE
How Lynn Redgrave has turned the story of her famous family into a new one-woman show for the West End

SPORT
David Miller on the greatest football captain



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,322



- ACROSS**
- Rash behaviour in carriage going round Circle Line (5).
 - Popular champion making many American friends in sultanate (9).
 - So tragic, I collapsed, being totally abandoned (9).
 - Copper, possibly, encountered a sign of inexperience (5).
 - Behave like Lady Godiva and abandon restraint (3,4,4,4).
 - Leather made by husband in compound (11).
 - Father's attempts to make cakes (8).
 - It may bear the stamp of a first-class writer (8).
 - Equipment for shooting arrived before gunners (9).
 - A little salmon announced as part of meal, as usual (3,3,3,6).
 - Some recall a majestic beast (5).
 - Sweetheart accepted thanks after returning scent (9).
- DOWN**
- Appearance of first characters before apron stage (9).
 - Kind old writer (5).
 - Free to travel, having abandoned infantry first (9).
 - Entertaining part of what you're doing (5).
 - Longed for study taken up after some time (7).
 - Slow to understand such an angle (6).
 - Irish girl caught taxi going up for game (8).
 - Such a blameworthy action could get me tried (7).
 - One's come down to earth after a short but brilliant career (9).
 - In US city, look over new synthetic material (5).
 - Stout bag for one possessing wine (9).
 - Story conceived by second officer in no-win situation (9).
 - Hothead pinches wood in malice (8).
 - Carelessly tear old acrobat's gear (7).
 - Loving a type of sherry mostly found round university (7).
 - Reportedly travels around selling bicycle parts (6).
 - Supporter of current conductor gets piano for 8's opening (5).
 - Cash immediately available for old seaman (5).

ABERLOUR
The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,321 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

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HOURS OF DARKNESS
Sun rises: 7:12 am Sun sets: 4:17 pm
Moon sets: 4:53 pm Moon rises: 7:12 am
New moon today
London 4:17 pm to 7:14 am
Bristol 4:27 pm to 7:22 am
Edinburgh 4:12 pm to 7:23 am
Manchester 4:18 pm to 7:25 am
Penzance 4:23 pm to 7:21 am

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Phone for UK on 0345 566777 or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability, airport tax and differing travel periods. Restrictions apply. Limited booking period only. See Travel 24/24.

FLIGHT RESCUE UPDATE
Total number of lives saved so far this year: 966
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: 4,672
Cost to RNLI per day: £173,000
Cost to taxpayer: £0
To make a donation, telephone: 0800 543210

Lifeboats
Royal National Lifeboat Institution
Box, Chisney Wood, 20045

FORECAST

General: southern counties from South Wales to Suffolk will become overcast and wet with strong easterly winds. The Midlands will cloud over. The North will be bright or sunny with a few coastal showers in the east.
Scotland and Northern Ireland will be generally bright with sunny periods. Sleet or snow showers are likely in northern Scotland. Showers are also likely near east coasts.
London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England: clear start, then becoming overcast and wet. Winds becoming strong easterly. Cold. Max 8C (46F).
E Anglia, Midlands, S Wales: bright, frosty start, becoming cloudy, rain in south later. Winds freshening from east. Cold. Max 8C (46F).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY
24 hrs to 5pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=dry; dr=dust storm; ds=dust; f=fog; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; i=rain; sh=showers; s=sleet; sn=snow; ss=sun; t=thunder

| 24 hrs to 5 pm: b = bright; c = cloud; d = drizzle; sh = shower; s = snow | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|-------|------|-----|-----|---|
| | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Rain | Max | Min | |
| Aberdeen | 8.8 | 10 | 50 | sh | 11 | 5 | |
| Argyllshire | 3.9 | 0.33 | 10 | sh | 6 | 0 | |
| Aspinha | 7.2 | 6 | 43 | g | 10 | 4 | |
| Avonmouth | 0.01 | 6 | 43 | g | 10 | 4 | |
| Belfast | 7.5 | 7 | 45 | g | 10 | 4 | |
| Birmingham | 4.5 | 6 | 43 | g | 10 | 4 | |
| Bognor R | 2.0 | 0.74 | 7 | 45 | 10 | 4 | |
| Bournemouth | 5.2 | 0.89 | 9 | 48 | 11 | 5 | |
| Bristol | 4.5 | 0.04 | 10 | 50 | 11 | 5 | |
| Buxton | 7.6 | 0.01 | 9 | 48 | 11 | 5 | |
| Cardiff | 6.5 | 0.02 | 9 | 48 | 11 | 5 | |
| Colwyn Bay | 6.5 | 0.02 | 9 | 48 | 11 | 5 | |
| Cornwall | 0.42 | 7 | 45 | g | 10 | 4 | |
| Cromer | 1.43 | 9 | 48 | g | 11 | 5 | |
| Eastbourne | 5.6 | 0.48 | 9 | 48 | 11 | 5 | |
| Edinburgh | 9.2 | 0.52 | 14 | 57 | 12 | 6 | |
| Falmouth | 4.0 | 0.01 | 8 | 46 | 10 | 4 | |
| Glasgow | 6.4 | 0.01 | 10 | 50 | 11 | 5 | |
| Guernsey | 3.9 | 0.72 | 11 | 52 | c | 11 | 5 |
| Hastings | 2.9 | 0.62 | 8 | 46 | 10 | 4 | |
| Hayling I. | 0.1 | 1.04 | 10 | 50 | c | 11 | 5 |
| Herring Bay | 0.02 | 9 | 48 | g | 11 | 5 | |
| Howe | 0.58 | 7 | 45 | g | 10 | 4 | |
| Leeds | 0.12 | 8 | 46 | c | 11 | 5 | |
| London | 2.4 | 0.38 | 10 | 50 | c | 11 | 5 |
| Leeds | 0.12 | 8 | 46 | c | 11 | 5 | |
| Liverpool | 6.0 | 0.26 | 4 | 39 | 9 | 3 | |

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

ABROAD

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Rain | Max | Min |
|------------|------|------|-------|------|-----|-----|
| Algeria | 16 | 61 | c | 45 | 5 | 1 |
| Alexandria | 25 | 77 | f | 43 | 2 | 1 |
| Amman | 17 | 63 | f | 17 | 63 | 1 |
| Algiers | 21 | 70 | f | 18 | 64 | 5 |
| Amman | 7 | 45 | f | 14 | 57 | 1 |
| Amman | 10 | 50 | f | 9 | 48 | 1 |
| Amman | 21 | 70 | f | 21 | 70 | 5 |
| Amman | 25 | 77 | f | 43 | 2 | 1 |
| Amman | 18 | 64 | f | 43 | 2 | 1 |
| Amman | 25 | 77 | f | 43 | 2 | 1 |
| Amman | 15 | 59 | f | 15 | 59 | 5 |
| Amman | 6 | 43 | f | 34 | 93 | 2 |
| Amman | 24 | 75 | f | 26 | 79 | 5 |
| Amman | 11 | 52 | f | 31 | 88 | 5 |
| Amman | 5 | 46 | f | 19 | 61 | 1 |
| Amman | 10 | 50 | f | 9 | 48 | 1 |
| Amman | 27 | 81 | f | 17 | 63 | c |
| Amman | 4 | 39 | f | 8 | 46 | c |
| Amman | 8 | 46 | f | 33 | 91 | c |
| Amman | 15 | 59 | f | 15 | 59 | 5 |
| Amman | 20 | 68 | f | 20 | 68 | 5 |

FORECAST

E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: bright with sunny intervals and showers. Winds light becoming fresh easterly. Cold. Max 7C (45F).
N Wales, NW, Central N England, Lake District, IOM, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: bright or sunny periods, a few isolated showers. Winds light or moderate easterly. Cold. Max 8C (46F).
Monay Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: bright with sunny intervals and sleet or snow showers. Winds light becoming moderate easterly. Cold. Max 7C (45F).
Outlook: wet, windy weather in South slowly clearing; brighter settled conditions spreading from the North.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY
24 hrs to 5pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=dry; dr=dust storm; ds=dust; f=fog; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; i=rain; sh=showers; s=sleet; sn=snow; ss=sun; t=thunder

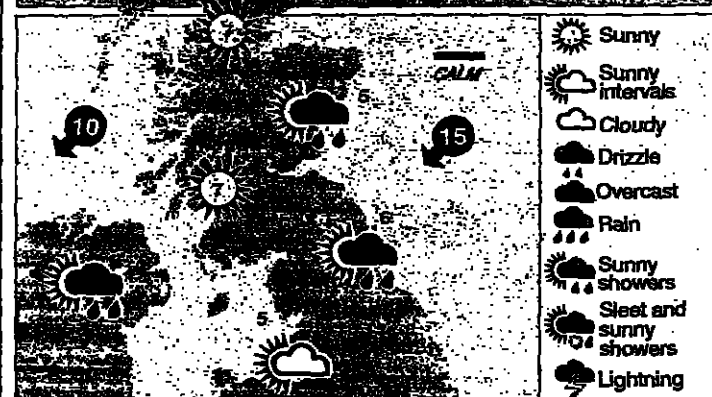
| | sun | Rain | h | C | M | F |
|----------|------|------|----|----|----|---|
| Leuchars | 1.1 | 1 | 3 | 48 | 10 | 4 |
| Leuchars | 0.9 | 0.87 | 7 | 45 | 10 | 4 |
| Leuchars | 0.85 | 7 | 45 | 10 | 4 | |
| Leuchars | 0.72 | 7 | 45 | 10 | 4 | |
| Leuchars | 2.6 | 0.07 | 9 | 48 | 11 | 5 |
| Leuchars | 5.7 | 0.84 | 10 | 50 | 11 | 5 |
| Leuchars | 5.8 | 0.01 | 7 | 45 | 10 | 4 |
| Leuchars | 4.2 | 0.13 | 9 | 48 | 11 | 5 |
| Leuchars | 0.88 | 7 | 45 | 10 | 4 | |
| Leuchars | 5.1 | 0.03 | 7 | 45 | 10 | 4 |
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| Leuchars | 4.7 | 0.28 | 12 | 54 | 11 | 5 |
| Leuchars | 4.7 | 0.28 | 12 | 54 | 11 | 5 |
| Leuchars | 4.7 | | | | | |

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

ABROAD

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Rain | Max | Min |
|--------|------|------|-------|------|-----|-----|
| Madrid | 21 | 70 | f | 18 | 64 | 5 |
| Madrid | 13 | 55 | f | 18 | 64 | 5 |
| Madrid | 22 | 72 | f | 18 | 64 | 5 |
| Madrid | 10 | 50 | f | 9 | 48 | 1 |
| Madrid | 21 | 70 | f | 21 | 70 | 5 |
| Madrid | 25 | 77 | f | 43 | 2 | 1 |
| Madrid | 18 | 64 | f | 43 | 2 | 1 |
| Madrid | 25 | 77 | f | 43 | 2 | 1 |
| Madrid | 15 | 59 | f | 15 | 59 | 5 |
| Madrid | 6 | 43 | f | 34 | 93 | 2 |
| Madrid | 24 | 75 | f | 26 | 79 | 5 |
| Madrid | 11 | 52 | f | 31 | 88 | 5 |
| Madrid | 5 | 46 | f | 19 | 61 | 1 |
| Madrid | 10 | 50 | f | 9 | 48 | 1 |
| Madrid | 27 | 81 | f | 17 | 63 | c |
| Madrid | 4 | 39 | f | 8 | 46 | c |
| Madrid | 8 | 46 | f | 33 | 91 | c |
| Madrid | 15 | 59 | f | 15 | 59 | 5 |
| Madrid | 20 | 68 | f | 20 | 68 | 5 |

SUNNY



Changes to chart below from noon: low L will deepen, slip south and become slow moving. High D will decline and edge north. Low L will move east, filling initially, but deepening later.

| Area | Temp | Wind | Cloud | Rain | Max | Min |
|---------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|-----|
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |
| London Bridge | 12.4 | 7.0 | 1.42 | 7.0 | 11.02 | 5.2 |



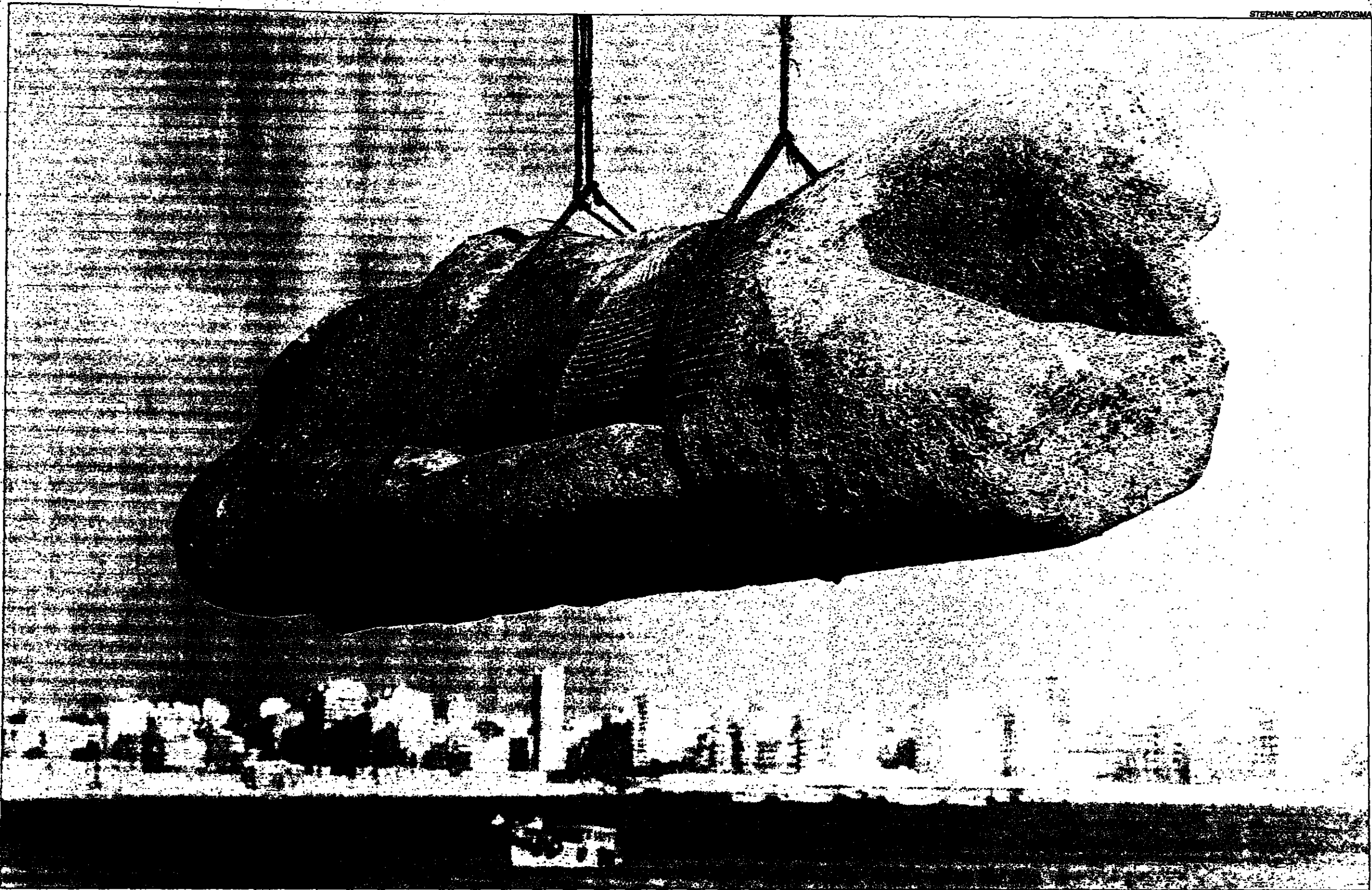
THE TIMES

weekend

NOVE.

2 4

11



Being raised slowly back into the living world after 15 centuries sunk in the waters of Alexandria's Eastern Harbour is a colossal statue of one of the Ptolemy kings, discovered last year by the archaeologist Jean-Yves Empereur

Cleopatra's treasure trove

The dream city is rising from the sea. Marine archaeologists are rediscovering ancient Alexandria, sunk for 15 centuries beneath the mucky waters of the Eastern Harbour. And so in the process they are recovering more than the drowned palaces of the Ptolemies. For Alexandria, the first open city, is as much a mother of Western civilisation as Athens or Rome.

Other cities have kept monuments of their past. Modern tourists can climb the Acropolis or see the Roman wall of London by Tower Hill Tube Station. But Alexandria had vanished beneath the ugly modern town and the water. Until now, all that was left was the memory.

But the prototype cosmopolis plays protagonist in our folk memory. Open cities are the mothers of open societies, and Alexandria was the first open city. To paraphrase Gibbon, if a man were called to fix the city in the history of the ancient world where the condition of the human race was most happy and prosperous, he would without hesitation name Alexandria 21 centuries ago.

Of course, it was a help to be free and male — though Cleopatra was Queen. The patriarchal Romans were as shocked by the sex of the ruler of Egypt as they were frightened by her eastern power. But Alexander founded his city as the first example of the world empire he planned, and almost made. The historian

As archaeologists unveil ancient Alexandria, **PHILIP HOWARD** celebrates perfection in a city

Arrian says that Alexander himself marked out the main points of the city with the meal his soldiers were carrying. This was taken as a good omen for the prosperity of the city, where East and Africa met West. But it also suggests that Alexander was a good general, who took care that his troops marched with food to spare.

Modern Alexandria looks like any other run-down eastern Mediterranean port. But ancient Alexandria was a model of town planning. The early travel writer Strabo described it for us in the latter half of the first century BC. Like New York, it was laid out with a gridiron of parallel streets, each of which had its attendant subterranean canal. (Sewers in New York.) The two main streets, each 200ft wide and lined with colonnades, intersected downtown. The island of Pharos, with its lighthouse that gave the world one of its Seven Wonders and its name to lighthouses in many languages, was joined to the mainland by a causeway a mile long.

There were more Jews in the Jewish quarter than in any other city. The western sector was occupied mainly by Egyptians. The Royal or Greek quarter, where the archaeologists are diving, was Mayfair.

But apart from being a safe

city, where East met West and anybody could scratch a living, Alexandria invented the public goods of civilisation. Food, olive oil, wine and other essentials came easy in the granary of the Mediterranean. The trade routes brought luxuries from the round earth's imagin'd corners. In his 15th *Idyll*, Theocritus gives an account of two middle-class Alexandrian ladies gossiping about the big shopping at the market and their expensive frocks, the crowds in the city and the stupidity of their husbands.

It may not have been quite the first, but the Alexandrian library was the greatest. It preserved our literature. And its scholar librarians contributed to the high rhetoric and cosmopolitan learning of Hellenistic literature.

Alexandria had the first Museum, where resident scholars gave public lectures. They still do in modern museums founded on the Alexandrian model. Cleopatra attended its discussions. Beside the Museum was the theatre, the racecourse and the zoo.

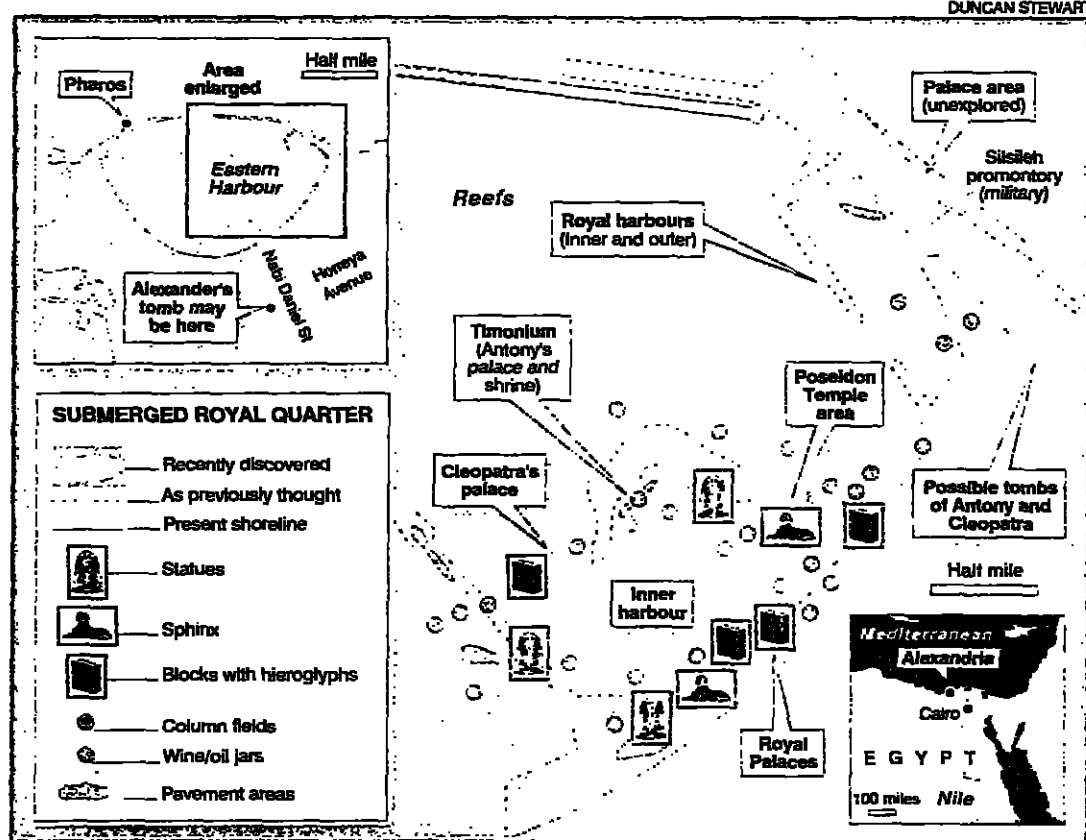
The temples, shrines and synagogues were built for a city as tolerant of religion as of race. These have long vanished beneath the sea and sand. But you

can still get some idea of their size and grandeur from Cleopatra's Needle in London. This granite obelisk was cut from the quarries of Aswan. A romantic, though implausible tradition has it that it went to Alexandria as a memorial to a son Julius Caesar had with Cleopatra. With its sister Needle, in New York, it was a mere gatepost to Alexandria's Caesarium, the Temple to Augustus. But buildings, however grand, are but the bones of a city. The breath is its people. And the life of Alexandria casts a long shadow. An open society is the seedbed of literature. And Alexandria still haunts writers.

Cavalry the Greek lived in Alexandria, and circulated his poems to a select group. In *The City* he tries to explain the mystery of Alexandria in plain language: "You won't find a new country, won't find another shore. This city will always pursue you."

The conjunction of Alexandria and world war worked in Olivia Manning and Penelope Lively to produce their best novels (*Balkan Trilogy* and *Moon Tiger*, respectively). The cosmopolis of human memory inspired E.M. Forster's *Alexandria*, a kind of *Guide to Memory*. And Lawrence Durrell's *Alexandria Quartet* is the novel of the guide, in which time, place and memory crisscross like the roads of old Alexandria.

The death of Cleopatra, celebrated by Horace and described by Plutarch, was dramatised by Dryden and many others, as well



as Shakespeare. The latter was exaggerating the civic amenities of Alexandria when he had Cleopatra invite Charmian to the municipal billiards hall. But Cleopatra remains a potent theme for the imagination. Nostalgia, exile and time haunt

Alexandria. If any of the old city survived, it would haunt us less. In other cities you can visit the Colosseum, walk the wall. In Alexandria, until now, there were only ghosts and intimations. Here Alexander may have lain in his golden coffin. Perhaps

Cleopatra committed suicide here. It is the city of exile and nostalgia. In Alexandria Theocritus from Sicily invented the idyll, the precursor of Bob Dylan's windy songs. "O singer

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING 23 GARDENING 45 COUNTRY LIFE 6 PROPERTY 8-11 TRAVEL OFFER 14 HOME LIFE 14-15 TRAVEL 17-23 GAMES 25

"Ah, Bin 65 I see. Cancel the cod. I'll have the lobster."



LINDEMANS
BIN 65

Australian Chardonnay.
The fruit of 150 years' winemaking.

Mind and body are one

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING

by
RACHEL KELLY

TIBETAN HEALING

© **WHAT IT IS:** The belief that we are made up of three humours air, fire, and earth and water, which need to be balanced for good health.
© **ADVANTAGES:** The practice seems to work.
© **DISADVANTAGES:** The theory sounds dubious
© **COST:** £40 a session

Kate Roddick had a persistent cold. Ten years ago she consulted a visiting Tibetan doctor in her native Scotland. He took her pulse and examined her tongue. Then he told her that when she was 17 she had suffered kidney problems, and again two years ago when she was 25. He cured both cold and kidneys.

The encounter led Ms Roddick to Dharmasala in the Indian Himalayas to learn the principles of Tibetan medicine — and me to her consulting rooms in Edinburgh.

Now patience, dear reader. I know the very notion of Tibetan medicine sounds medieval. These tonsured chaps view health as a balance between the "humours" in the body: rlung, or "air"; mkhris-pa or "fire"; and bad-kan or "earth and water". Illness is because one humour comes to dominate. It all sounds like the views of a Middle Ages monk.

Most people are a mix of types, the theory goes. You can tell which humour dominates by your symptoms. So the over-satirised tend to perspire little, suffer from insomnia, constipation, back pains, dry skin and flatulence. Their minds flit, they feel the cold, and their ears hum. They are susceptible to psychological illnesses, such as anxiety, asthma, and heart conditions linked to stress and back pains, and tend towards restlessness and thoughtfulness.

Those dominated by fire unsurprisingly perspire often, have weak livers and easily overheat. They feel thirsty, have a bitter taste in their mouths and suffer diarrhoea. They are likely to suffer from eczema, headaches and nausea. They can be impatient, angry, clever,

sharp and ambitious. And those dominated by earth and water can be overweight, snubborn, with distended stomachs, indigestion and cold feet. They are slow and tend to laziness but are dependable.

Ms Roddick's first task was to identify my type. This did all get quite medieval. She took my pulse, but not as a nurse takes it. No stopwatch to hand, she "sensed" the state of the three humours by checking a variety of pulses.

Then she examined my tongue and confirmed her diagnosis with a good look at my pee. Ms Roddick shook and whisked my sample with a chopstick. It was transparent with big bubbles, meaning the person has a cold nature and slow circulation — an "air" type.

Like most Westerners, I suffered from too much air. Too much air causes stress and most Europeans are stressed. I needed heating up. Part of the answer was warming foods. "You should eat lamb, butter and molasses," Ms Roddick said. "And you should avoid cold foods, such as salads and ice-cream, or have a hot drink before meals. Ginger tea is particularly good. Base your diet around chicken, meat broths, cheese, onions, carrots, garlic and spices, spinach and greens," she said.

The problem with eating supposedly healthy, cold foods such as yoghurt and salad is that it damps down this fire. So food is ill-digested, which can lead to flatulence, water retention and heart disease.

And the other part of the answer was a glorious massage, there and then, using the heating oils of ginger and cardamom.



Kate Roddick performs a massage on a patient during a visiting surgery at the Life Centre in Kensington, London

I would say the whole thing was gobbledygook. Foocy. Bunkum. It's hard to swallow a doctrine which fails to chime with much conventional wisdom: eating fat, for example.

Gobbledygook but for one thing. During our consultation, post-tongue and pee inspection, Ms Roddick seemed to have an uncanny way of knowing my physical traits. "Do you suffer from cold feet?" Answer yes. "Do you get aches in your lower back?" Answer yes. "Do you ever feel dizzy?" Answer yes.

"Do you suffer from flatulence?" Answer yes.

Now how did she know all that? "The Tibetans keep the system because it works," Ms Roddick says. "They have every kind of high-tech medicine, too, but they find that Tibetan medicine is just as effective for many conditions and much cheaper because it doesn't use surgery or modern equipment." Ms Roddick believes in Tibetan doctors working alongside conventional ones.

The problem is a paucity of practitioners in the West who

would provide any comprehensive kind of test. Tibetan medicine has not been subjected to clinical trials.

But its view that there is no separation between mind and body is becoming commonplace among Western doctors. Mental and emotional states, such as desire and anger, can have as clear an effect on health as can the wrong food.

I followed Ms Roddick's advice. My feet are warm and the flatulence has gone. And my husband, for one, is pleased.

SPECIALISTS

- The Life Centre, 15 Edge Street, London W8 7PN (0171-221 4602).
- The Health Administration, 8 St John's Court, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 6PA (0181-738 1996).
- The Whole Works Complementary Therapy and Counselling Centre, Jackson's Close, 209 Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH1 1PB (0131-225 8092).
- Cost of consultation about £20-£35 an hour.

SERIOUS SHOPPING

by
GILES COREN



"GIFTS"

An old curling partner of mine was over from Canada the other day, and much taken with the raffia place mat on which the waitress had just positioned a dish of dill and lemongrass consommé.

Turning the mat over, having first put aside the less interesting soup, he said, "I have never been able to find mid-sized raffia place mats in Canada. I have a set of six in the dinner-plate size, and am naturally most keen to procure such a mat. Or even six."

And thus to the kitchenware section of a never knowingly undersold department store. "Oh no, no," Ms Kitchenware said. "The raffia mats are kept in Gifts."

My old curling partner was, like, "hello?" They are in Canada. But what perverse logic makes a raffia place mat a gift and a slotted spoon something one is permitted to buy for oneself? But there they undoubtedly were.

Along with examples in palm leaf, coiled rush, and woven coconut fibre — not good enough to buy for yourself, but perfect to give to friends. There was also a shrink-wrapped pack of six cork coasters (£1.05). Well, happy birthday.

I found green-glazed Chinese dogs (£17.50), assorted iron candlesticks, and what appeared to be petrified fruits. But why on earth would I want to give away a shiny tin beazana (£8.50), when I could keep it for myself?

A set of wind chimes (from £33 to £450) is an obvious gift, because it makes a noise so irritat-

ing you'd have to be mad to want one, and who wouldn't want a box with a glass top to fit a favourite photograph? Garry Kasparov, by the way, is thought to have made his first checkmate on a commemorative Battle of Culoden chess set (£295).

I was more tempted by the miniature Victorian pram (£79), the assorted African fertility gods, and the aboriginal drums. But why the fireguard? Is it possible that my family are sitting, even now, watching a dangerous fire spit embers on to the rug, desperately hoping to get a fireguard for Christmas? They will be disappointed. They are getting

Gift food means two small bottles of port and an indoor skittles set (£9.95)

"gift food". I thought gift food meant shortbread or preserved fruits. Apparently not. It means two small bottles of port and an indoor skittles set (£9.95). Or a selection of three small marmalades of which one will disappear in a single toast frenzy, while the other two are vile and never get eaten.

D.H. Evans cleaves more to the whack-it-in-a-box-with-a-ribbon-and-call-it-a-gift school of thinking. A small table marked "Marble Giftware" sells alabaster things called "frame" (£50), "round box" (£10), and "apple" (£15). Well, I suppose they couldn't put it in the alabaster apple department.

As for the nodding glass dolphin and ball balancing on a stick (£6.95), I shall have to hope my curling partner noticed the glint in my eye, and gives my girlfriend the nod before they are sold out.

Continued from page 1
of Persephone! In the dim meadows desolate/ Dost thou remember Sicily?" I'll bet he remembers Alexandria, preparation for Hades, Oscar.

Old Alexandria faded, as cities must. Augustus disliked Egypt because it voted for Antony, who had nearly stopped his resistible rise to become Master of the Universe. So he kept the entrepôt of Empire tucked in his imperial pocket. But Christian sectarianism burnt more fiercely there than anywhere and destroyed its ancient tolerance. Arianism was invented in Alexandria, and Athanasius, whose creed won, triumphed there.

The silt of the Nile and erosion of the sea buried it. Alexandria became a dead-end not a bridge. The Arabs took it in 640, after a siege of 14 months, during which the Emperor in Constantinople did not send a ship to its relief. Yet the Arab general was still able to write to his

Caliph that he had taken a city containing "4,000 palaces, 4,000 baths, 12,000 dealers in fresh oil, 12,000 gardeners, 40,000 Jews who pay tribute, 400 theatres or places of amusement". The story that the library was used as fuel for six months to heat the public baths is now regarded as doubtful.

The submerged stones being found in the harbour resurrect the ghost of an old dream. Alexandria is for ever *fin de siècle* and nostalgic. Failure haunts its memory, but a failure so rich that it is a kind of triumph. Cavafy lived his old city.

You'll always end up in this city. Don't hope for things elsewhere.

There's no ship for you, there's no road.

Now that you've wasted your life here, in this small corner,

You've destroyed it everywhere in the world.

The spell of Alexandria is stronger even than the pleasures of ruins.

BARELY 20ft beneath the placid surface of the Eastern Harbour of Alexandria lies a treasure trove belonging to two of the most evocative names of ancient history: Antony and Cleopatra.

The announcement last Monday of the find follows years of toil by a French marine archaeologist. The pier on which artefacts lie forms part of an astonishingly comprehensive archaeological discovery of the royal city which formed fully a third of Ptolemaic Alexandria, founded by Alexander the Great in 332 BC.

The tumbling columns, walls and statues of the palaces that Cleopatra and Antony built 2,000 years ago lie virtually undisturbed since they were inundated by a tidal wave following an earthquake in AD 335. The suddenness of the disaster is indicated by a cargo of lead ingots, still waiting on the quayside to be loaded aboard a Roman vessel, long gone.

The discovery is the work of Franck Goddio, the director of the Paris-based European Institute for Marine Archaeology, who, with a team of 16 professional divers and 20 archaeologists and computer

The royal city beneath the sea

experts working from a 30ft launch in the harbour, has laboured for four years to pinpoint the royal residences.

Among the remarkable discoveries are piers 10ft high and extending up to 650 yards out into the harbour, built of hewn limestone secured with mortar and topped with glistening paving of the same stone.

M. Goddio describes the area — about 2km by 1.5km — as covered in columns of rare and unusual stone, including marble, red granite from Aswan 600 miles away, calcite and porphyry.

More than 2,000 artefacts forming the core of the royal port, religious area and palaces have been found. These are not "small finds", household objects, but large architectural features enabling M. Goddio to describe the groundplan of the royal areas.

In many aspects we could follow the description of Strabo [the Greek geographer who visited Alexandria in 25 BC] and correct



Cleopatra VII coin, circa 40 BC

him in others," M. Goddio says. "But he led us to the most important find of all, the palace of Cleopatra on what was once the island of Antirrhodus."

The island, forming the north-western section of a roughly rectangular inner harbour, is about 350 yards long and 60 yards wide, and is protected by another pier at its northwestern corner. Its shape echoes the Egyptian hiero-

glyph for the word *pr* "house", and so, perhaps, hints at an even earlier foundation.

Though the end of royal Alexandria seems to have come suddenly, M. Goddio was surprised to find that most of the marble and limestone statuary, obelisks and blocks remain where they fell, on top of the limestone paving.

Opposite Cleopatra's palace lies the Temonium, which served as Mark Antony's palace and shrine. This pier, 150 yards by 30 yards, has more than 200 columns along its length, with 3ft-wide granite bases indicating the massive proportions of its buildings.

At the front of Antony's palace, and linking it to the shore, is a 650-yard promontory where Antony built a temple to Poseidon, god of the sea.

On the present shoreline, archaeological work is impossible, because the area has long been built over. But just offshore lies another impressive jungle of fallen blocks, statues and imported wine

and oil jars. This, M. Goddio says, is where the rest of the Bruchium, the royal area, waits to be uncovered.

This has been a good 12 months for Alexandrian archaeology. Al-most precisely a year ago Jean-Yves Empereur, of the Centre for Alexandrian Studies, started to put the city back on the archaeological map by recovering from the sea dozens of fallen blocks from the Pharos lighthouse, since 1477 the site of Qait Bay Fort.

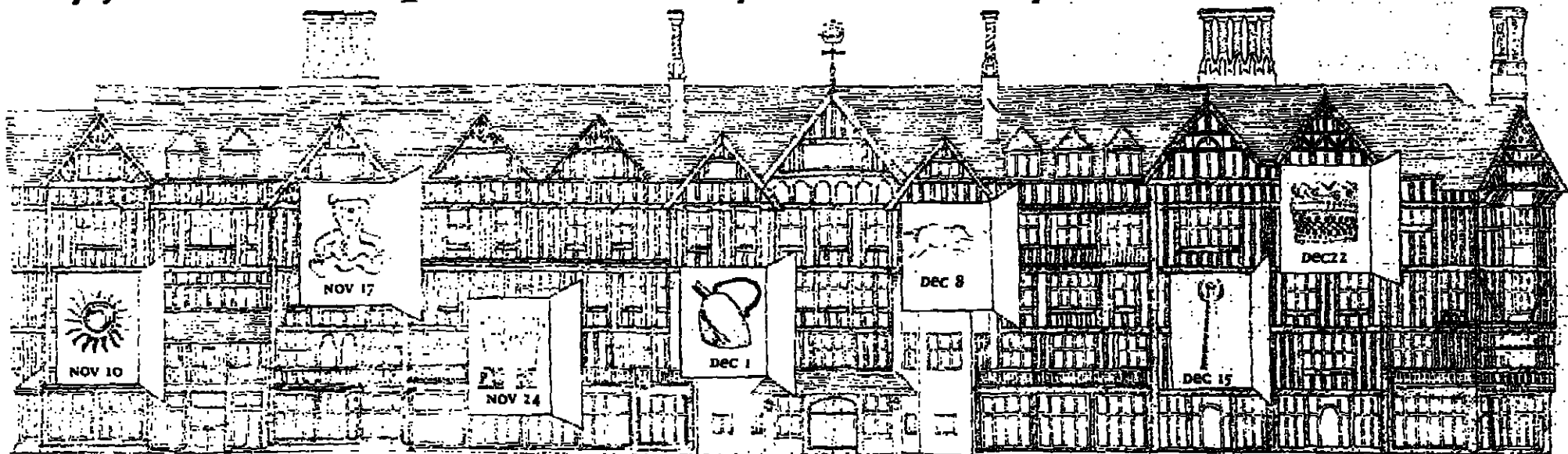
M. Goddio will bring up from the seabed only those pieces in urgent danger, those which might be stolen or be shattered if left alone. "We want people to be able to see the site as it is," he says. "But I have to say at the moment that visibility in the water is very bad."

The Alexandria governorate will move sewage disposal from the harbour to new land-based works within two years.

"Then, perhaps, we can have glass-bottomed boats, or transparent tube walkways through the site — a real underwater museum," M. Goddio says.

MICHAEL MURPHY

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LIBERTY

gardening

Snake-bark tale with a neat twist

BY STEPHEN ANDERTON

OF THE various fancy small trees — rowans, crabs, cherries — the snake-bark maples are among the most fascinating. They get their name from the curious patterning on the bark, and there are several species which display this characteristic. Among the best are *Acer grosseri* (20ft), *dauricum* (40ft), *pennsylvanicum* (25ft), *rufinerve* (30ft) and *capillipes* (30ft).

The effect on the tree is curiously contrived, as if someone had painted stripes and marbling on the stems. It is an effect you either want a lot of — a thick or a little grove to make it normal by massing — or to single it out as a curiosity in a prominent position.

Ivan Hicks, a garden designer, has gone one better with his snake-bark maple. He is growing one up an apple tree, training it round the trunk in a slow spiral, like the serpent in Eden. It started out as a very small tree at the root of his apple, but in a year or two it will have reached eye-height and the apples.

Snake-bark maple seedlings grow whiplash as youngsters and are amenable to tying-in to a string or wire spiral. If you use wire, it must be removed once the trunk has formed into its spiral, so that the tree is not cut and strangled. Even the maple-trunk spiral will eventually grip the tree and strangle it slowly; more muscled constrictor than tempter. But won't it look magnificent as the apple bark is squeezed up in folds between its coils as the years go by? We should never be afraid to let gardening ideas get the upper hand over the plants.

The snake-bark I have had most to do with is *Acer davidii*, a species from China which will only reach 25ft tall over 20 to 30 years. Hot summers cover it in "helicopter" seeds, typical of the maples, even in the north.

In Northumberland, where I used to work, seedlings would sprout up out of the rough grass below, like sycamores. We would put a few seedlings in pots or the nursery every year to provide the bartering material with which all gardeners develop their collections. Whereas a sycamore seedling grows thick and straight, our seedlings grew thin and whippy,

with a distinct bend to one side. In pots or in the ground, in full light or half shade, our young snake-barks would wave off to one side at the top, as if distorted by a prevailing wind. I grew *A. hercynicum*, bought as a larger, pot-grown specimen, and it did the same. Tying the leaders to a cane made little difference. They just wanted to bend, and in the early years they look wimpish. Only



Patterned snake-bark maples

when they are ten to 15 years old and the branches develop a little grace do they develop any poise.

The quality of patterning varies with snake-barks, as it does with snakes I suppose. It also varies with age. But what is marvellous about the snake-barks is their ability to keep the patterning to some degree on the trunk and older branches, even in mature trees. The bark remains thin, looking, sometimes with a shine, and does not develop away from that slithery youth into gnarled, scaly old age. It remains fancy to the last, and this is worth remembering when you are choosing a place to plant one.

Part of the job of bark is to stretch and expand to protect the

growing tree within, right through its life.

When you look at the bark of an old robinia, its bundles of fibres wrenched criss-cross over centuries, you can see the power pushing from within. Snakes may slough a skin, but trees bear their stretch marks with pride.

So what is going on in the tree to make those delicate striations on the bark? I asked Sir Othello Prance, the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and author of a recent book on bark, if the snake-barks were simply employing a different mechanism to allow them to expand, using expansion joints (gussets) instead of the woven, criss-cross stocking system of other trees.

The answer was yes. "What is remarkable is the way in which the same lines in the bark remain and develop during the life of the tree," he said. And that is curious.

If you think of the plated scales of bark on a plane tree or old sycamore, the agonised spirals of a sweet chestnut, or the black-and-white diamond pattern on a silver birch, they are all features that develop with age. On a birch you can watch it start to happen, as the lower part of the trunk begins to open and stretch into diamond patterns, even in young trees of 3-4in diameter.

SNAKE-BARKED maples generally prefer an open soil. In heavy clays they can be slow and sulky, and prone to the fungal disease coral spot, which is a serious threat to maples. Woodland edge is the right position for them, with some shelter and plenty of sun. In gloom the bark is never as telling, and in damp shade green algae on the stems can hide the beauty of the bark, unless you are prepared to give it a periodic wash and brush down. My preference is to see them used formally where the bark can look its most artificial. But that gauche habit in youth does not do much for formal situations. If you go for snake-barks, that is something you have to live with.

● Reading: *Leaf, Bark and Berry: Foliage Plants for Texture and Form*, by Ethne Clarke, with photographs by Cive Nichols (David & Charles, £20).



Charles Jencks's swirling garden at Dumfriesshire, Scotland, reflects his "obsession with complexity, science and chaos theory"

AT LAST, a beautifully produced book that affords a glimpse into more than 50 extraordinary private gardens, some of the most significant to have been created in the past 20 years.

The book, *Paradise Transformed: the Private Garden for the Twenty-first Century*, by Gordon Taylor and Guy Cooper, is divided into four philosophical elements of garden design: explanation, innovation, tradition and abstraction, and the emphasis, says Ian Hamilton Finlay, a landscape designer, is on "culture, not just horticulture".

Mr Finlay's garden, "Little Sparta" in Lancashire, is one of the first on a world tour. His witty fusion of the Classical/Neo-Classical and Modern is exemplified by a statue of Apollo, after Bernini, holding a gun instead of a lyre. It was Massachusetts-based Martha Schwartz, we learn, who first introduced irony into contemporary garden design, in

1979, with her provocative "Bagel Garden" in Boston. "I thought the bagel the perfect landscape material. It was easy to get, cheap, biodegradable, anybody could plant it, it did well in the shade, and you didn't need to water it," she says.

The gardens in the book reflect aspects of the modern aesthetic. Ecological awareness is a constant — water is celebrated, and even the grotesque and violent.

A unifying theme in the book is practicality and utility, according to the owners' needs, tastes and interests. The way the landscapers resolve these considerations defines their success.

GUY OGILVY

● *Paradise Transformed: the Private Garden for the Twenty-first Century*, by Gordon Taylor and Guy Cooper, is published on November 15 by the Monacelli Press. £35 (ISBN 1 85525 435 0).

Hint of Nepal on the Dee

■ Ness Gardens, South Wirral, Merseyside (0151 353 0123).

Two miles off A540 between Ness and Burton. Open daily (except Dec 25) Nov-end Feb, 9.30am-4pm. £3.50, children under-18, free.

The 60-acre garden is on a sloping site overlooking the Dee estuary. Rhododendrons and other choice plants were brought back from early 20th-century plant-hunting trips to the Himalayas by George Forrest and Frank Kingdon-Ward. At the moment, the enormous heather

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

garden, created on an ideal site of acid sunstone with rocky outcrops, is spectacular, while the sordid National Collection reveals berries from pure white to rich ruby red. The scale of the mixed planting and the rock garden is impressive.

■ Painswick Rococo Garden, Painswick, near Stroud, Gloucestershire (01452 813204). On B4070, half mile from Painswick. Open Wed-Sun to

end of Nov. 11am-5pm. £2.75, children £1.50. Reopens Jan 8.

The garden is a rare survivor of the Rococo style, which played a part in the changes from the formal French style to the natural English landscape. Some paths wander through the beech woodland to reveal the superb 18th-century buildings. In mid-January, the garden's flowering forte is the snowdrop wood. The changes being made reflect a painting of Painswick in 1748 by the artist Thomas Robins.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE



Painswick Rococo Garden

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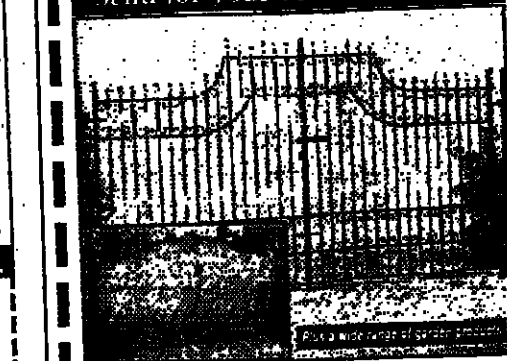
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Fleeced by Big Brother



by
PAUL HEINEY

It is not with any pride that I admit that, in all my years of country dwelling, I have only ever attended one meeting of a parish council, which is surprising, because it was one of the best evenings' entertainment I have had. If every meeting was as good as that one, nothing would have kept me away, and because it did not take place in the village in which I now live, I can share the joy with you.

The evening started soberly with formal business conducted in muted tones while a fierce lady noisily scribbled minutes in a lined exercise book. Conservation issues were then raised and a valuable, if brief, discussion followed on achieving a balance between the needs of nature and the requirements of tidiness on the village green — which was not of the manicured sort, but rather more an area of gorse-strewn heathland.

Then the question of "the mattress" was raised, and with it the eyebrows of the more elderly parish councillors. Apparently, the youth of the village, not having any other way to entertain themselves on an evening, had installed a mattress behind the bus shelter. One innocent lady asked if they used it for physical exercise. Eric Morecambe never got a bigger laugh.

After order was restored, the mattress was considered to be leaning a little too far in the direction of the needs of nature, and it was resolved that a request be made to the district council to have it removed. But on what grounds? Or at least, what could the secretary write in a letter that would cause her not to blush as she struck the keys of her elderly typewriter? "Insurance," someone shouted to huge applause, and the relieved council members passed on to more weighty matters — the colour of the bus shelter, I seem to remember.

All this may strike you as rather trivial, but someone has to be responsible for the tiniest of cogs in the massive engine of daily rural life. We assume that those higher up the scale of government are too deep in thought about "the future of the countryside" and other such cosmic matters to have to worry

about a bit of hanky-panky on the village green, and so country people get on with their daily lives, counting the pennies while others wisely take care of the pounds. This is a grave mistake, fellow country dwellers: word reaches me that we are about to be fleeced, as will become clear.

There now follows a brief description of a part of Britain, which comes from someone in a position to speak with authority. Despite what you might think, it is not a glimpse of life in a bleak, forgotten corner of an inner city or a threatening housing estate where police patrol in pairs. This, the author of the letter tells us, is rural life as it is lived today.

In his part of Britain, "there is no welfare rights unit, equality unit, anti-poverty unit, policy unit. You will not find a council theatre, public hall, concert hall, crematorium, football pitch. Neither is there a museum nor an art gallery. Not all domestic refuse is collected weekly." It is Teesdale, a glorious part of northern England not far from the adored Herriot and Heartbeat country, and the author of the letter is no less than the district solicitor of Teesdale District Council, Mr Sparrow.

He makes a good point, worthy of study. "The allocation of central government grants is supposed to produce the result that everyone in the country receives the same level of service for the same level of council tax." In order to make this work, the government makes an allowance, which recognises the higher costs of services in rural areas. This allowance is about to be reviewed, within the next week or so.

Government research shows that the allowance should be increased but, because the pot out of which these funds pour is finite, organisations representing big cities are "trying to rubbish the research and get the allowance reduced." This, says Mr Sparrow, will result in a situation where two levels of local government are created: an urban one with all the trimmings, and a



Expressions of disapproval: are country communities destined to receive second-rate local services?

one-star rural kind, offering basic services only. It seems that we are about to be dumped on from a great height by Big Brother from the city.

He quotes comments from city interests that particularly annoy him. For instance, "people choose to live in the country, they could always move" and "there is more affluence in the countryside because there is high car ownership" (There is, if you think about it, high car ownership because

there is so little public transport and so few village shops.)

But why is Mr Sparrow surprised? They have always dumped on us. I must reveal that it transpired, after much delicate questioning, that it was not the youth of the village who put the mattress behind the bus shelter after all. It was flung there from a passing truck, which sped off back to the town. We should not take this lying down.

Countryside Campaign

Readers should write to The Times Countryside Campaign, c/o Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Revenge from a great height

FEATHER REPORT



The thrush-like fieldfare

FIELDFARES are flooding into Britain from northern Europe. They are very striking birds, especially when they sit in a little flock on the top boughs of a bare tree, with the winter sunlight falling on them. They have the spotted breast of the thrushes, but above they are richly coloured, with a powder-blue head, a ruddy-orange back and black wings.

I have just seen some flying steadily across a field, and the air was filled with their loud "chuck chuck" cries. They are constantly on the move in Britain in winter. When they arrive they feed mostly on worms and insects on ploughed fields or pasture, but they soon go into the hedges to eat the hawthorn berries.

This year they will find plenty of those, and you will see them swaying at the end of tiny twigs to get at them. However, even the best loaded of ruddy hawthorn bushes soon turn bare, with blackberries, as well as the fieldfares, and then they turn to other fruit.

They seek out the last elderberries and any blackberries lingering on the brambles. They would eat holly and mistletoe berries, but the mistlethrushes usually form temporary territories round any good supplies of those, and fight off the fieldfares.

They will eat the bitter sloes but do not like them much. In midwinter they will flock into apple orchards, and eat the fruit that has been left on the branches or has survived on the ground. They are said to have a special taste for Golden Delicious.

After Christmas, on warm days, they will sometimes sit together in the trees singing a warbling song, and even when they get back to the northern birch forests to breed they will not sing much better. This is, perhaps, because they are colonial nesters and do not defend a large breeding territory like most other thrushes.

However, they co-operate to protect their colonies in a unique way. When a sparrow-

hawk or buzzard is sighted, a squad of fieldfares flies up above it, and showers it with droppings. Their aim is very accurate and the hawk can be covered with faeces.

They build their nests in tree forks and lay a larger clutch of eggs than most small birds, usually six. Song thrushes and mistle thrushes generally lay four or five eggs.

The birds were first found breeding in Britain in 1967, in Orkney. Since then pairs have occasionally nested in Scotland, Derbyshire and Yorkshire. They are spreading south through continental Europe, too. A few years ago a pair bred in the Prater Park in Vienna.

There has not yet been any sign of a colony in Britain. However, that day may be coming — and even we may have to get used to those unsavoury showers dropping from angry birds in the sky.

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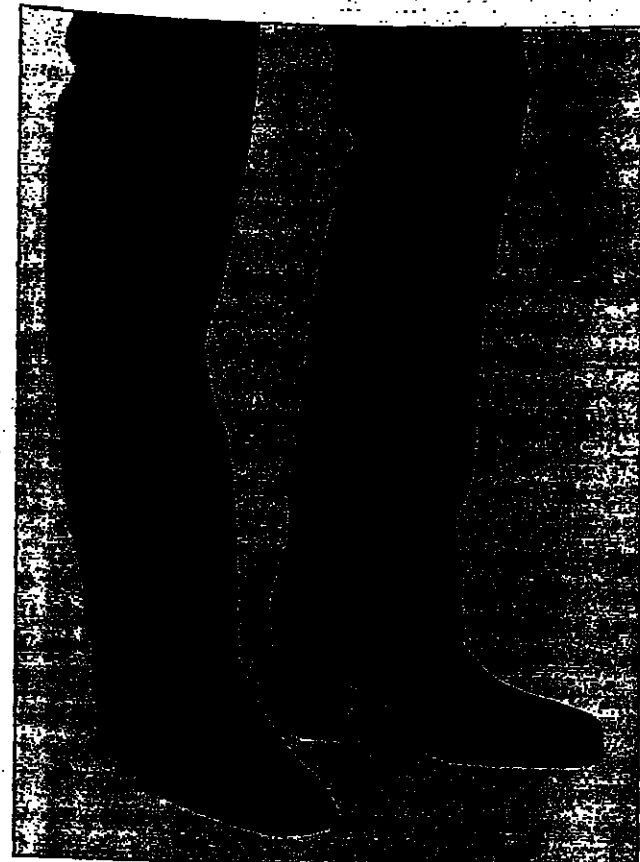
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Old jeans never die they just look vile with court shoes

Dated, maybe, but denim can still look good — as long as you choose your footwear carefully.
GRACE BRADBERRY reports

Only a year ago, fashion commentators were writing the obituary of the blue jean. The sometime symbols of youthful rebellion had smoothed the thigh of one too many weekending politicians, and lost the under-25 vote in the process.

The kids on the street had decided they liked "proper" trousers, including the sort of Rupert Bear creations that would have induced instant acne in a previous generation. Slumming it meant combat pants, or drawstring pyjama trousers.

The greatest betrayal of all was among off-duty models. New York lofts have been purchased, cash down, on the proceeds of designer jean advertising campaigns. But what did they wear outside the studio? Moleskin hipsters, khaki combats, gaberdine boot-cuts — anything but denim.

But jeans companies have played a few clever cards recently. Levi's recruited veteran mid-westerners for its advertising campaign, reminding us of the heritage, and challenging the teen domination of fashion. The company also tried to close the gap between svelte image and sagging reality, introducing a made-to-fit service at flagship stores in London and Sheffield.

A rear-guard action is also being fought by the more avant-garde stylists — the people who choose the clothes for magazines such as *The Face*, *Arena* and *i-D*. They're asking for good

quality dark denims, and not in the craziest cuts," says Jeffro Marshall of Diesel. "That's filtering through into sales."

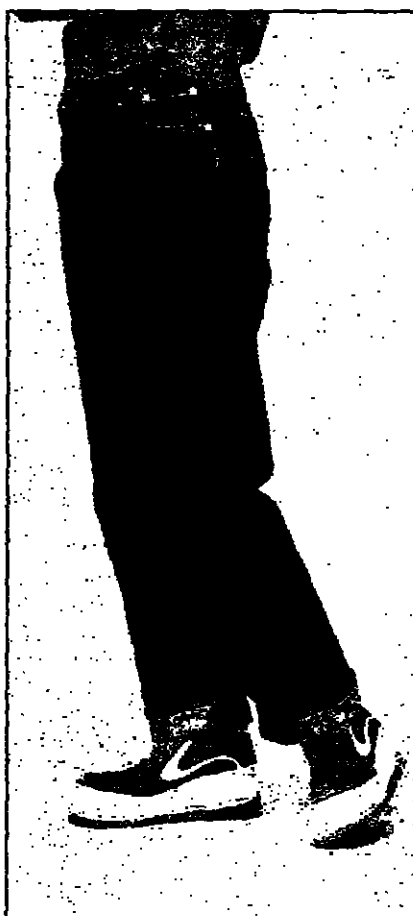
Whether jeans are strictly fashionable is debatable, and some would say irrelevant. But the fashion in jeans has undoubtedly moved on. Lighter shades of denim are out and low-slung "rapper" styles remain on the fringes. The jeans to buy now are deep blue or indigo, in hipster, half-hipster, slim leg or boot-cuts. Classic cuts, if they fit well, are also acceptable.

But the more trying question is the footwear. Naffness has a nasty habit of not declaring itself at the time. But in the months and years to come, nostalgic photographs can be ruined by the sight of a loafer with a white sock, a court shoe with a pop-sock, or a partner's brogue peeping out from the denim.

As a guide, the following are currently slip-sliding toward the style abyss: black Dr. Marten shoes, flat or slim-heeled black boots and high-top white trainers. Desert boots, wedge-heeled trainers, blonde suede ankle boots and canvas walking boots are all in the ascendant. So too are smart boots, particularly if they're in shades of brown or mulberry, rather than black. Cowboy boots are also making their return, a potent reminder that fashion and good taste do not always amount to the same thing. Which brings us on to high strappy sandals and stiletto mules for that cowgirl-goes-



ABOVE: Indigo bootleg jeans, £39; print shirt, £65, Jigsaw, 126-127 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4484); tan leather ankle boots, £54.99, Office (0181-838 4447); Vespa ET4, £2,449 (0800 203010). TOP LEFT: Hipster jeans, £70, Hysteria Glamour, 4 Brewer St, W1 (0171-437 1259); stretch ankle boots, £165, Armando Pollini, 35 Brook Street, W1 (0171-529 7606). BELOW RIGHT: Classic cut jeans, £69, Katharine Hamnett, Selfridges, W1; sweater, £81; waistcoat, £72, John Smedley, Cashmere Studio, 10 Sloane Street, SW1; Fenwicks, W1; Harvey Nichols, SW1 (0171-580 5075); patent shoes, £155, Armando Pollini



LEFT: Drainpipe jeans, £55, Diesel Flagship Store (0171-833 2255); sandals, £44.99, Ravel (0171-631 0224). CENTRE: Wide leg jeans, £55, Levi's stores (01604 790436); trainers, £84.99, Office. RIGHT: Baggy jeans, £38, Gap (0800 427789); trainers, £44.99, Office

on-a-date look. OK, so you wouldn't walk the dog in them, but they might just make your jeans acceptable for a club or restaurant —

particularly if they're shrink-to-fit style drainpipes. Matching footwear to the jeans shape is crucial. At the conservative end of the scale,

classic cuts go with loafers. Bootcut jeans predictably look good with boots. Other shapes are less obvious. Tying with the idea of outside

turn-ups, but concerned that people will miss the joke? Not if you're wearing a pair of wedge-heeled trainers they won't. Sounds ghastly? Wait until you see the turn-up denim pedal-pushers, touted as the next big thing.

Photographs by Steve Poole. Hair and make-up by Alex Babasky. Styling by Amandip Uppal.



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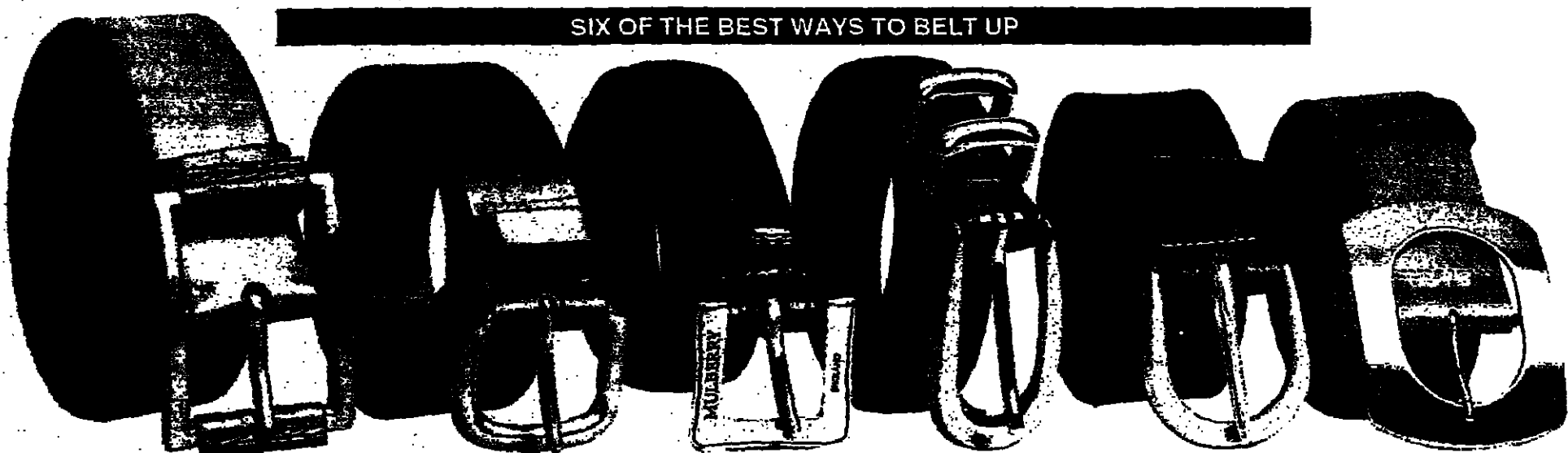
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GLOAG'S



A good belt will define the cut of your jeans and add style. For hipsters, choose something wide and chunky with a silver buckle. Classic cuts demand slim belts worn at the waist. Here's a look at what's going around

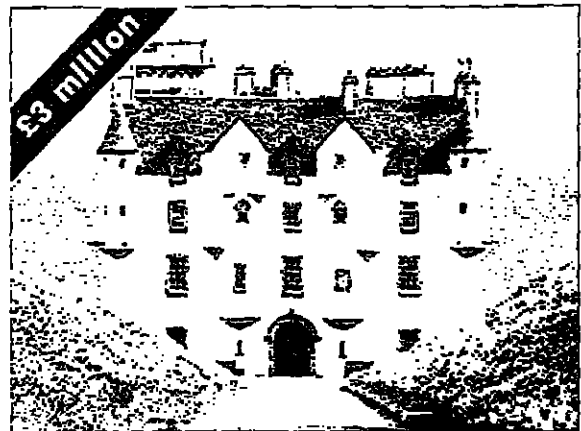
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LEFT TO RIGHT: Light brown leather belt from Emporio Armani, £78, from Giorgio Armani, 191 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-823 8818). Brown leather belt with gold buckle, £14.99, from Oasis (0171-452 1000). Black leather mock crock belt, £39, from Mulberry 41/42 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 3900). Black mock crock belt, £10, from Marks & Spencer, branches nationwide (0171-935 4422). Chocolate brown leather belt, £10, from Debenhams (inquiries, 0171-408 4444). Soft brown leather belt by Otto Glanz, £47.85. Also in black, sizes 10-14. Stockists nationwide (0181-365 1711).

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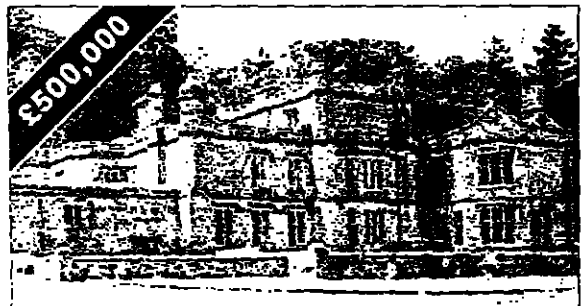
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Ireland: Ballea Castle, Carrigaline, Co Cork. 13th-century castle in a commanding position above a wooded river valley surrounded by its own 50 acres. Baronial hall, banqueting hall, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, study, chapel, kitchen, utility, library, five bedrooms (with en suite baths). Guest wing and ambassador suite. Gate lodge, staff cottage, three stables, workshop and coach house. Offers over £1 million (Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171).



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London: 4 Vanbrugh Castle, Greenwich, SE10. Detached wing of a Grade I listed castle, designed by Sir John Vanbrugh in 1719 as his country residence, in a private garden with a detached study/summerhouse, within two acres of communal gardens. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), 31ft reception room with quadruple aspect windows overlooking Greenwich Park, kitchen and breakfast room. Parking for two cars. About £450,000 for a 999-year lease (Winkworth, 0181-852 0999).



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Wales: Haflyn Castle, Flintshire. Regency and Victorian mansion house in 37 acres of gardens and parkland. Ten bedrooms, three bathrooms, tower, drawing room, sitting room, dining room, office, cloakroom, cellar, two kitchens, domestic offices, games room, stable block, garage. Self-contained two-bedroom flat. About £500,000 (Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01244 328361).

CHERYL TAYLOR



Baddesley Clinton in Warwickshire, a perfect medieval manor house with its own moat, lies in a remnant of the forest of Arden ten miles outside Birmingham. From the revised edition of the *National Trust Guide*, by Lydia Greeves and Michael Trimick, published by the Trust last month at £24.99

Time to stop the rot in your home

HOMEOWNERS need to be able to spot defects in their properties and take steps to solve the problems, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Ian Perry, a chartered surveyor and the RICS housing market spokesman, says: "Houses and flats need to be cared for like any other valuable possession. Regular checks and repairs are essential if buildings are to provide secure, long-lasting accommodation."

Now the housing market is recovering, a well-maintained home is a key factor in attracting buyers. A new guide — *Looking After Your Home* — from the RICS covers a multitude of problems from dripping taps to rotting roofs. It stresses the importance of adequate building insurance and gives tips on what to do in case of fire, flooding or storm damage.

Some faults can be remedied quickly and cheaply. Others need specialist help and advice.

DRY ROT

THE distinctive aroma of mushrooms should ring alarm bells if you smell it in the loft. This is one symptom of dry rot, one of the most serious problems, which can quickly spread if left untreated. Fungus on timber, initially like cotton wool, later turns grey/yellow and then rusty red in colour.

Affected timber has distinctive cubic cracking, and crumbles. Dry rot thrives on moist timber in a medium cool and poorly ventilated environment.

The cause of moisture must be eliminated and good ventilation provided. Affected timber and woodwork within a metre of it must be taken out and burnt. New timbers should be impregnated with preservative. Masonry adjoining affected timber should be chemically injected by a specialist firm which provides a 30-year guarantee.

WET ROT

Wet rot appears as brown or black thread-like strands over timber and masonry. Affected timber cracks along the grain and rots. This fungus will only thrive on wet timber — often where plumbing and drainage leaks occur or the damp course is ineffective. The cause of dampness must be eliminated and affected timber replaced by a reputable builder or specialist firm.

WOODWORM

Woodworm leaves small holes in timber, usually floorboards, roof timbers, plywood and underneath stairs. These "flight holes" are caused by beetles gnawing their way out of the woodwork — after the larvae have bored around inside, sometimes for years. Most

Regular repairs are essential for houses says CHERYL TAYLOR

often found is the Common Furniture Beetle, which can be brought into a house in old or infected furniture. The notorious Death Watch Beetle (found in the South of England) have long life-cycles and can cause extensive structural damage. Specialist spraying of affected timber is the best remedy.

DAMP

Rising damp appears on walls close to ground level and is caused by dampness from the ground rising up the wall by capillary action through porous building materials such as brickwork. The rising moisture carries salts from the ground into the masonry, which crystallise in the internal plaster. These salts will absorb airborne moisture and create a damp patch, independent of dampness within the wall.

External walls are the most likely to become affected, but internal and party walls can also suffer if there is no effective damp-proof course. Rising damp can occur where a damp-proof is damaged.

Check whether the outside ground level is at least 150mm below the damp-proof course. Reduce the ground level or clear away

earth if necessary. The damp-proof course may be ineffective, or non-existent. In either case a new damp-proof course must be installed at least 150mm above the adjoining ground level. Use a specialist firm which gives a 30-year guarantee.

Penetrating damp appears as patches on walls — not necessarily near ground level: sometimes on chimney breasts or just below roof level. This kind of dampness is caused by the weather penetrating the outer fabric of the building. Porous brickwork or brick joints will let rain water through the wall itself, as will cracked cement rendering or any other kind of defective facing on the outside of the wall. Defective brickwork or ineffective "flashings" between the roof covering and a chimney stack above roof level can also allow damp in.

On external walls check the condition of the bricks and the soundness of the mortar joints and repair and repoint as necessary. Check cement rendering and external claddings for cracks and gaps and repair.

For damp on chimney breasts, check the presence of a flue lining and the condition of the chimney stack between brickwork and mortar joints. Check

roof coverings and ensure there are no gaps where water can get in.

Steamed up windows, damp walls and ceilings left moist will attract mould growth — black spot. Condensation is caused by cooking, washing and even breathing out. It can occur within the structure, such as in chimney flues, if proper ventilation is not provided.

Remove the water vapour at source or minimise cold surfaces on which condensation can occur. Water vapour can be removed by open windows, extractor fans, or dehumidifiers which collect moisture. Heat or insulate cold surfaces and install double glazing.

Cracks through external walls could mean subsidence, settlement, shrink-

age or wall-tie failure. The same applies to cracked cement rendering, which is often symptomatic of structural movement. Get professional advice — the property may need to be monitored by a surveyor or structural engineer.

THINGS THAT GO BUMP

Knocking or banging noises may be coming from water pipes containing trapped air or from excessive mains pressure, which can easily be remedied by "bleeding" radiators or reducing pressure.

Pipes may be too loosely fixed to walls — or too tightly to allow for heat expansion. It is also worth checking if the boiler is causing the noise — if so, scaling may have built up inside and it may need a service.

● *Looking After Your Home* is available free from the RICS (0171-222 7000).

PROPERTY NEWS



Oriental drawing room at Monkton House

Passed over by Cromwell

A FORTIFIED laird's house, dating from the 14th century, is for sale for the first time on the open market. Amanda Loose writes. Monkton House, only six miles from Edinburgh, was built as a safe house, in the form of a fortified tower house, by the monks of Newbattle Abbey. Redesigned in the late 17th century by Sir William Bruce, the house was ignored by Cromwell and the like because it was thought to be too small to be a real military threat, so many of the original features have survived.

The drawing room has 17th century panelling, now decorated with oriental murals, and a wattle and daub ceiling. The house also includes fortified tower with gun loops, stone spiral staircase and oyster shell decorations on the outside of the house which were intended to ward off witches. Offers are invited in excess of £400,000.

House prices rise 1.6% in October

THE Halifax index for October reports the highest monthly rise in UK house prices since February 1994. Prices rose by 1.6 per cent in October, compared with 0.4 per cent in August. Average prices paid by first-time buyers increased by 1.1 per cent last month, to £47,963.

The Nationwide reports that prices have risen by 7.9 per cent since October 1995. The average price this October was £54,824, compared with £50,807 last year.

Nationally, properties are now selling at 94 per cent of the original asking price, according to the Blackhorse agencies Home Report for October, an increase of 3 per cent since their report in June.

■ NEW legislation in London means that local authorities can recover from homeowners the cost of deactivating alarms that have been running for more than an hour. Councils can already insist that alarms are fitted with cut-out devices and to enter premises to stop the alarm.

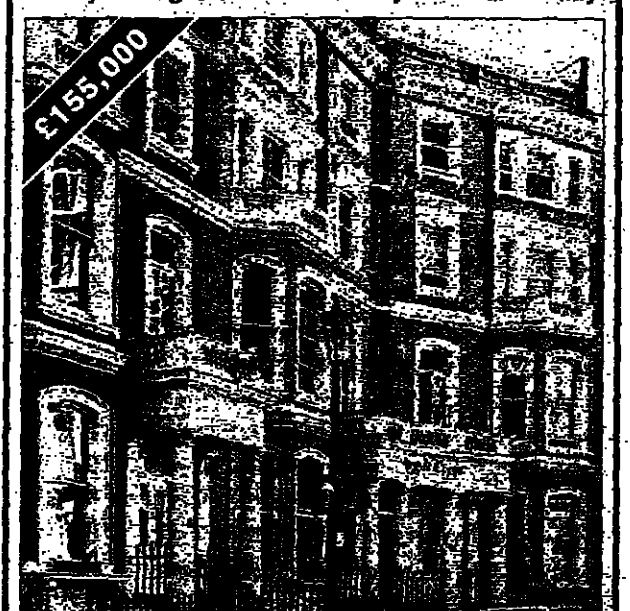
■ THE buyer of a house in Carlton, Nottingham, will never be the sole owner. The Grey House, once home to an order of monks, has a legacy in the deed which states that a square yard of the grounds will always belong to God. The Grade II listed house, with coach house and seven bedrooms, is for sale at £345,000 (Savills, 0115-955 2255).

■ MODERN homeowners dream of Victorian homes with cellars and attics, not futuristic apartments, according to General Accident Property Services. The nationwide survey asked people to describe their ideal home for 2020. Almost a third would like cellars and 56 per cent an attic.

■ LANDLORDS are increasingly letting unfurnished properties, according to Hamptons Lettings Journal. In central London 34 per cent of the new tenancies started in the last quarter were for unfurnished property, compared with 26 per cent in the same quarter last year. Hamptons links the rise to the new fire and safety regulations, making it a criminal offence for landlords to put furniture which

HOMESWAP

What you can get for the same money around the country



This two-bedroom flat (top right) on the third floor of a Victorian house in Argyle Court, Leamington Spa, overlooking the rooftops of Kensington, west London, costs £155,000. Winkworth 0171-727 1500



For a little more, you could buy this restored Grade II listed 18th-century three-bedroom three-bath cottage near Clare, in Suffolk (above) with views over open countryside. G.A. Town and Country 01787 277107



Alternatively, in Scotland's Tayside, £160,000 would secure this spacious five-bedroom, three reception room, family house (above) in Brechin, nearby are some of the best golf courses in Scotland and salmon fishing on the rivers North and South Esk. Savills, 01382 622282

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The author has long been regarded as an expert on nature and the countryside, a memorable writer in the great tradition of such naturalists as Gilbert White and W.H. Hudson. He portrays the ways of birds with the freshness of an observant eye and the knowledge of an expert ornithologist.

May has collected typical reports from his column and used them as a basis to provide a vivid account of the changing scenes for birds throughout the year. He leads you month by month on a journey capturing the pleasure to be had simply watching birds.

From the humble blue tit in the garden to the more exotic species found of wilder habitats, *Feather Reports* has something for everyone, from the most ardent ornithologist to those who just enjoy the comings and goings of our feathered friends.

The book is illustrated by delicate black and white line drawings by the late Robin Jacques which accompanied the articles in *The Times*.

Feather Reports would make a delightful present to yourself if you are already interested in birds and an excellent first book to anyone you know who has not been introduced to the mystery and magic of bird watching.



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Illustrated by Robin Jacques

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A walk on the wild side

Clearing borders in autumn could mean sacrificing a great display in winter, says NIGEL COLBORN

Let's face it, the garden is a mess just now. Borders are scruffy as autumn gold tarnishes to drabness and foliage dies away. There are few flowers left and even those that hang on are marred by frost. Everything everywhere is in decline. The burning compulsion is to arm yourself with clippers, rake and barrow and clear the whole thing.

Traditionally, border plants are cut back to ground level at this time of year. But hold on, your action could be harmful. Not only do you risk damage to the habitat, you could also be sacrificing a magnificent winter display.

One of the greatest threats to our natural environment is obsessive tidiness. In towns and villages, local authorities and well-meaning volunteers hack and prune until nothing is left of the thistly corner where warblers nested.

Yet, in the best of our gardens, the English planting style is, if not wild and abandoned, at least naturalistic. Even the most genteel of borders, if they follow patterns set by Robinson, Sackville-West and Margery Fish, waver between dishevelled romanticism, when they work, and green chaos, when they don't.

June's manicured flower border comes unstuck in July, when half the early perennials go to seed, but the autumn flush has yet to start. What was a relatively ordered wild garden in May could, in October, amount to a neglected corner. And why not? No planting can look perfect all the time.

Forget those excruciating "best-kept village" type of frontages, where precision-placed French marigolds are held in check by a blue line of lobelia, and consider the magnificence of a wide, walled border where the spring display transposes into summer abundance. The scruffiness of fading tulips or narcissus might be

hidden beneath developing perennials, themselves enhanced by a background of shrub roses. Later, tall plants — big campanulas or lilies — could surround the roses; or such climbers as sweet peas or clematis might grow through their branches. Then, as summer ends, and the changing leaves and the shiny hips on the shrub roses set off the late asters, surprises would appear at the border front: hardy cyclamen or lilac colchicums.

To hack your way into that lot, just because the last of the plants has finished flowering, seems an act of vandalism. Inevitably, you would be stopping the flow. Watching foliage run through its gentle transformation from green to brown can be absorbing, and if the right plants are present for a winter outline, November can be almost as rewarding as July.

All sedums such as 'Autumn Joy', for instance, have beautiful silhouettes; the large, floppy *Euphorbia palustris* runs through several shades of old gold as it dies; Siberian iris seed capsules are distinctive on their erect stems, and even big daisies gone to seed can be beautiful. Some plants are as beautiful, even more so, in death as when they were green. Teasels, for example, make superb winter outlines, as do the cornflowers. And when all these plants are garnished with hoar frost on one of those precious sunlit winter days, that memory of your border may stay with you for longer than the summer climax.

The main benefits, however, are enjoyed by wildlife. Birds, particularly finches and other seed-eaters, rely on a late harvest to build up their body fat for winter. Since declining foliage will carry great numbers of insects, tits, wrens and robins will also benefit and can be watched as they work



Left to their own devices, the Saville Gardens in Windsor Great Park are still a riot of late colour in autumn

through the stems, while blackbirds and song thrushes forage in the undergrowth for worms. Admittedly, such a mess can harbour slugs and other pests. You have to take the rough with the smooth, but benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

My own reasons for deciding never to cut back my borders were arrived at not as a result of a finely honed artistic sense but out of sloth. I was too idle to do the job one year and realised what I had been missing all my gardening life. The following year, I fretted over the untid-

ness and decided after all, to cut things back. I ruined the nest of a hibernating hedgehog by almost driving my fork into his prickly side. Thereafter, I vowed never to trim or tidy until spring.

All I do now, if things are intolerably messy, is to remove only plants that have collapsed, or that threaten to engulf their neighbours. Otherwise, I leave my beds to themselves until March when everything is pretty well worn out and must be made fit for the coming growing season. Spring, rather than autumn, is, after all, the time of renewal.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Plant fruit trees this month to allow time to establish an effective root system before spring. A piece of plastic pipe set down among the roots will allow easier watering in the first year or two.
- Evergreens and conifers planted last month should be watched for wind rock, and firmed in again after high winds.
- Pot up from the garden a few double or coloured primroses for Christmas display.
- Potted hydrangeas, plunged in the garden over summer, should be brought indoors, but kept on the dry side for a little longer.
- Complete the planting of tulips — 4in deep is adequate but, for permanent planting, 7in is better.

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q My variegated dogwood, *Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima' is in a hot, dry place, so last summer I let the hose run on it twice a week. It flowered hard, and I have cut out much of the flowered wood, but I am afraid I have spoiled it. What should I do? — Mrs A. Snell, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

A You have not spoiled it: it is a very tough plant. But it is also hungry and likes a soil which is moist and cool. So in spring cut it all down to 2-3in, and plaster around it a thick mulch of rich compost or manure. You could even give it artificial fertiliser as well if it is slow to respond. By next autumn it should have made a thicket of 3-4ft high red stems, which you can cut right down again the following spring. Like a lawn, you must feed it regularly to keep it strong.

Q Where can I buy seeds of *Bidens aurea*, and can I take them from this year's plants? — W.H. Rees, South Godstone, Surrey.

A Suttons lists *Bidens aurea*, and all big seed companies sell *Bidens ferulifolia*, which is, I suspect, much the same thing from a practical point of view. *Bidens* used to self-seed in my gravel path in the North the year after I had grown it in pots nearby. So yes, save your own seed. It is an easy member of the daisy family. It can be overwintered as cuttings taken in autumn and kept under glass.

Q During the summer a large bracket fungus has grown at the base of our 100-year-old oak tree. I believe it is a parasite called *Inonotus dryadeus*. Will it harm the tree? — D. Barnett, North Leigh, Oxfordshire.

A There is bad news and good news. This fungus eats away at heart wood destroying the core of the

tree. If it were on a beech tree I would be more worried because, having been eaten alive, they tend to collapse quickly. Oaks are different. They survive such cuts into old age, shedding limbs and branches, but continuing to live with a hollow trunk. For safety's sake it would be wise to get a tree surgeon to inspect the tree to see if it is structurally sound or likely to shed limbs. He or she may say leave well alone, and look at it again in a few years' time. You have options. All is not lost. But you cannot cure the tree.

Q The Judas tree in the northwest corner of my small garden is about 20ft high and had a bonanza flowering this year. However, a limb has torn off taking wood with it. The tree appears top heavy and I do this? — Mrs B. Cathcart, Taunton, Somerset.

A *Cercis silquastrum*, the Judas tree, is a plant for hot, thin soils, and is good on chalk. Softer growing conditions — rich soil and abundant moisture — exacerbate the tree's tendency to produce forked stems, which are prone to gale or snow damage. (It is not a strong tree; if Judas really hanged himself on a *Cercis* I reckon it was just a cry for help, not a serious attempt.) The tree can be pruned but the response is unpredictable, new shoots not always coming where you would wish them to be. It is, therefore, better to thin the tree if necessary rather than carve it back, to reduce weight and assist longevity.

● Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.

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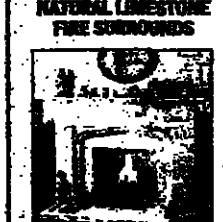
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Classical front for modern life

Houses with classical façades with the luxuries of modern life inside are tempting buyers into spending more for a town flat than a larger period house.

Fierce planning controls are part of the impetus for designing "authentic" classical buildings that blend with the environment of period towns such as Cheltenham and Bath.

Elsewhere, too, classical design is in vogue. In Barnes, southwest London, Berkeley Homes is building 321 apartments, with passing references to classicism such as porticoes, and 221 have already been snapped up at prices ranging from £112,900 to more than £1.8 million.

Building homes to classical designs is a big commitment for developers, because it costs more to get the details right. Yet such properties have proved popular with buyers, even in the face of the ultimate competition: from the real period thing.

In Bath there has been much interest in Beaufort Homes' magnificent Palladian mansion block, Cavendish Lodge, where a two-bedroom flat costs £295,000.

The blend of classical exteriors with up-to-date interiors is a tempting mix for today's buyers

Three have already been reserved out of the first phase of five, even though the sales centre has yet to open. Yet the local agent, Pritchard and Partners, is selling a four-bedroom Georgian house in Park Street, just down the road from the lodge, for £255,000, including a separate flat, parking and a garden. It has open views, too, but not set in 2.5 acres like Cavendish Lodge.

In Cheltenham, Montpellier Apartments looks like a terrace of Regency houses. The 42 flats there sold quickly at between £85,000 for two bedrooms to £204,000 for a three-bedroom penthouse with a roof terrace.

The developer, Beaufort again, encouraged by the demand, started building a second terrace nearby last July. Imperial Apartments

is another terraced row, with larger and more expensive flats, from £150,000 for two bedrooms to £350,000 for the penthouses. Ten of the 47 apartments have already been reserved.

But £350,000 would buy a comfortable house out of town with two acres, or a house in one of Cheltenham's glorious, old classical terraces. Allen & Harris is marketing an imposing house in Lansdown Parade, at £185,000. It has four bedrooms, two reception rooms, a self-contained flat, and a patio garden backing on to the tennis courts of Cheltenham Ladies College. But, the agent says, it needs "some updating", and there's the rub. Although refurbishment would cost, say, about £30,000, the hassle involved would not appeal to people such as the Beaufort clientele, for whom convenience is a must.

The Beaufort buyers are first charmed by the elegant Regency-style exterior of the Cheltenham apartments. The interiors are ultra-modern and have basement car-parking with direct lift access to each apartment, a security system including video entry and intruder alarms, high-spec kitchens, with integral appliances, wiring for total-sound CD systems, heat and sound insulation. Maintenance costs are low.

The design of these three developments could be dubbed progressive classicism, a term coined by the architectural historian Dr Tim Mowl in his book *Cheltenham Betrayed* to describe modern buildings where the architect has used classical details and proportions sensitively (he approves of Montpellier Apartments, while being less flattering about most of the town's other modern developments).

Imperial Apartments, next to the colonnaded Queen's Hotel at the top of the Promenade and built in 1818, is bringing to life the original plans made 160 years ago to complete Imperial Square by surrounding the gardens with houses. A pavilion at the corner, a Broad Walk and a fountain were all completed. The classical squares of Cheltenham were designed with pavilions at all four corners, so there will be one at the



Regency-style apartment homes, completed last year in Cheltenham, cost from £85,000 for two bedrooms to £204,000 for a penthouse



Prices exceed £500,000 at Royal Thames Crescent, Chiswick

end of the new terrace. "The original plans, shown on the Merrett's map of 1834, outlined the terrace that's being built in the same format," the architect, Ralph Guilford, says. "All the wrought iron railings, ornate balconies, doors, stucco detailing, mouldings, parapets and single-glazed, wooden windows are authentic. We're providing a niche for a Napoleonic fountain."

"There would not have been car parking 160 years ago so we've devised a lowered grille to ventilate the basement car park and conceal car headlights."

Marjorie and Keith Imlah, who sold their five-bedroom, 100-year-old house because they wanted a smaller home, moved into a penthouse flat in Montpellier Apartments a year ago. "The location was a big factor. It's a three-minute walk to the town hall, six minutes to the theatre, yet we look out on Montpellier

Gardens. Our terrace faces south and we eat out there in summer," says Mr Imlah, aged 73. "We could have bought a bungalow with a large garage, but this is ideal."

Mrs Imlah, 61, a magistrate, says: "Having lived in a house of great character I would have hated to move into a box. This place has elegance, is light and airy, and its location is superb. The last thing we want now is the responsibility of a lovely old building that would cost a fortune and take time and energy to maintain. We also have excellent security, which to me is very important."

Another developer, Barratt Southern, uses classical design for its schemes. Its three classically inspired crescents at Lakeside Grange, Weybridge, Surrey, where houses sold quickly at from

£210,000 to £385,000 last year, won a *London Evening Standard* award. Another development, Royal Thames Crescent, beside the river at Chiswick, has sold well. The best houses there cost more than £500,000.

"This architectural style has proved itself down the ages; it's pleasing to the eye," David Pretty, the chairman of Barratt Southern, says. "Classic is widely liked by all ages and nationalities."

"Our experience shows that classic design and proportions, blended with the best of modern materials, add up to homes that our customers clearly want, which is the most important acid test. We'll continue to offer classic styling in appropriate locations and have several more major projects in the pipeline."

Bob Stephens, the managing director of Beaufort Homes Western, says: "I doubt if I will ever be involved in anything as romantic

in my lifetime as Cavendish Lodge, that's how special it is. It is the largest single development in Georgian Bath for 100 years."

"In Cheltenham, we didn't know what market we were aiming for when we built Montpellier Apartments, but we have residents there aged from 18 to 80. Some buyers wanted to buy two or three units and knock them into one."

"Our greatest competition is from established period homes. We have to respond to that challenge and produce something that is at least equal."

CHRISTINE WEBB

● Berkeley Homes, 01932 868555. Beaufort Homes Western, 01454 311444. Pritchard & Partners, 01225 466225. Allen & Harris, 01242 580700. Barratt Southern, 01463 505533.
● *Cheltenham Betrayed* by Dr Tim Mowl (Redcliffe Press, £7.95).

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Sniffer dogs can be trained to detect anything from drugs to dry rot and even human illnesses. **CHRISTIAN DYMOND reports**

Dogs with a nose for trouble

Last month Star, a black Labrador and a trainee member of the West Midlands Fire Service, celebrated his first birthday in a burnt-out hotel at Edgbaston, Birmingham. The dog is employed by the service to detect the use of fire accelerants such as petrol, white spirit, paraffin and lighter fuel in suspected arson cases.

Star can sniff out minute quantities of petrol, even if 95 per cent of it has evaporated. That's far better than a human or a machine could do, says his handler, Clive Gregory.

As their use for detection indicates, dogs are second to none when it comes to sniffing out trouble. A few years ago a letter was published in the *Lancet* from two doctors working in the dermatology department of a London hospital. A patient had been referred to them with a malignant melanoma on her thigh. Apparently she had first become aware of the lesion after her pet dog (a cross between a border collie and a doberman) constantly sniffed at it, even when she wore trousers. This continued for several months and prompted the woman to seek medical advice. The dog may have saved her life.

In America there is reported to be a dog that has been trained to detect cancer. George, a schnauzer, is said to have a 99 per cent success rate and to have identified early lung cancer from breath samples, as well as malignant melanoma.

Five pet dogs in Britain, including a border collie, a Labrador and a Jack Russell, have been trained by the charity Support Dogs to alert their owners of epileptic seizures by detecting a slight change in their owners' 20-30 minutes before a seizure. It is still not known how they do it. The dog can warn with a bark or by jumping up, a signal understood by its owner.

Lex, an alsatian, has been working at a club in Sunderland for the past month. Seven nights a week he joins the queue at the Nite Klub to

sniff out any drugs that may be smuggled into the premises. His handler, Sandra Wood, believes he is the first dog to be used by a nightclub in Britain for this purpose and says that without him, checking the building and the 1,300 clubbers a night for drugs would prove very difficult.

The former RAF dog has a "pro-active role" when he is let off his lead to search the club premises and a "passive response" role when Ms Wood walks him along the line of clubbers on the lead. Staff are scrutinised as well.

If Lex senses something amiss with one of the clubbers he sits down and waits for them to produce what he expects will be a scented training aid. "In the first two weeks we had him there were 13 arrests but since then there has been nothing," Ms Wood says.

In Britain, Labradors, golden retrievers and springer or cocker spaniels are the breeds normally used for detection work, and favoured by the Metropolitan Police in London. Most of the Met's 34 specialist search dogs, which all live at home with their handlers, are gift dogs. They started their lives as family pets but for some reason or another their owners could not keep them and donated them to the police.

The Met says there is a shortage of ten to 12-month-old dogs (puppies are not encouraged because it is impossible to assess them at that age) of the preferred breeds suitable for training.

Police regional dog training schools are always on the look out for potential recruits, but the animals have to be assessed first. Even if the breed is right the dog may not be temperamentally suitable for the work.

The Met's search dogs are mainly engaged in tracking down drugs, firearms and explosives. Other dogs are used to search for bodies, and one dog is at present being trained to scent fire accelerants.



Lex the alsatian, with his handler Sandra Wood, at work in a Sunderland nightclub checking members for possible drug possession

A find is rewarded by praise and play, not food. Food might start the dog looking for more food when it is out on a search.

Initial training for the dogs is for about eight weeks, then there are two one-week refresher courses during a year. The dogs' working life is seven to eight years.

The idea of using sniffer dogs in the Met came from an international police seminar in Paris in the 1960s. A detective sergeant heard that dogs had been used in South America to search for smuggled coffee. Officers reasoned that if dogs could be trained for that they could be used to sniff out cannabis and other drugs.

In this country, collies are the favoured animal for the Search and Rescue Dog Association (England). The organisation is involved in about 75 searches a year, many in moorland and mountainous areas.

Collies can work for a long time in hilly conditions and at long distances from their handlers.

At Hutton and Roston Environmental Investigations, based near Guildford, Surrey, dogs have been employed for six years in the initial

search to sniff out active dry rot in buildings all over the country. The find is followed up by the use of fiberoptic and electronic instruments. For a £100 call-out fee and £42 an hour, either Scrappy the collie, Goldie the Labrador or Sam

the springer spaniel are available.

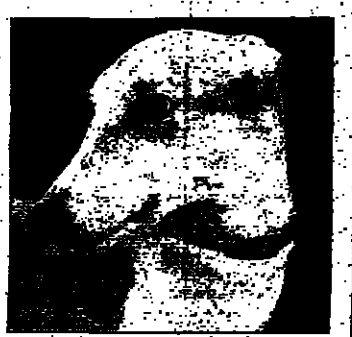
These dogs can cover 20 to 50 rooms in an hour. When dry rot is detected the animal sits down and barks. A success rate of more than 90 per cent is claimed. The dogs are known as rothounds.



Danny needs plenty of care

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DANNY is a seven-year-old black and grey mongrel dog who needs a home with someone prepared to give him plenty of care. Red is four-and-a-half years old and a former racing greyhound, who will make a good pet for a kind owner. Contact RSPCA Blackberry Farm Animal Centre, Quainton, near Aylesbury, Bucks (01296 655073).



Red was a racing greyhound

A VET WRITES

WHEN a pet dies suddenly or is ill for no obvious reason, owners often suspect poisoning. But a large number of these incidents are due to road accidents or gunshot or air rifle injuries.

However, when there is no obvious cause of illness, it is time to take samples for laboratory tests. But beware because the costs can mount, particularly if the lab is looking for every possible poison.

If malicious poisoning is suspected and legal proceedings are a possibility, all samples must be properly identified and it is wise to keep duplicate samples.

Most poisonings are accidental. Dogs often die from eating a large quantity of pesticides, such as slug pellets, usually straight from the packet. A few pellets scattered round the garden do not pose much of a risk, but a handful eaten from a split bag left in a shed can be lethal.

Pills for human ailments can be dangerous too, if a dog chews its way through a child-proof plastic container. If this is discovered soon after it has happened, there is usually time to solve the problem by emptying the dog's stomach.

A PIECE of ordinary washing soda (sodium carbonate) the size of a small walnut will induce vomiting in an average-sized dog. Give it like a tablet and five minutes later it will take effect — which might be all the treatment needed.

But whenever there is a real possibility of poisoning, see your vet. It helps if you can take the tablet container, a copy of the prescription, or the label from the rat bait, insecticide or herbicide with you. If the poison can be identified, the antidote — if there is one — can be found.

Dogs and cats are rarely poisoned by plants because they do not eat them, but ponies, cattle, goats and lambs are at risk. Yew is lethal. A handful of the foliage can kill a cow weighing half a ton. Remember this when you are disposing of Christmas decorations on Twelfth Night.

JAMES ALLCOCK

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THE TIMES

Win a holiday for two in India

Readers of *The Times* have the chance to win the last of a series of competitions today as well as take advantage of exclusive offers to worldwide destinations, in association with Cox & Kings, one of Britain's leading travel companies.

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The holiday takes you to India's Golden Triangle, beginning in the bustling capital of New Delhi where you will stay at the Oberoi Maidens Hotel and tour Old Delhi. You then board one of India's most modern trains and travel to the fort city of Gwalior, home of the famous Scindia dynasty. From there you travel to the Mughal city of Agra where you will see the incomparable Taj Mahal, a magnificent expression of emperor Shah Jahan's undying

love for his wife. You will also have an opportunity to explore the exquisite ruins of Fatehpur Sikri, the romantic city of Jaipur, visiting the Palace of the Winds en route, and the delightful Neemrana Fort. This journey offers a great insight into the days of the Raj and the Mughals, revealing the unique spirit of the Subcontinent.

The winner may choose to travel on any

departure between January 8 and 29, 1997. The prize includes return flights, room and breakfast, the services of an escort and guided sightseeing.

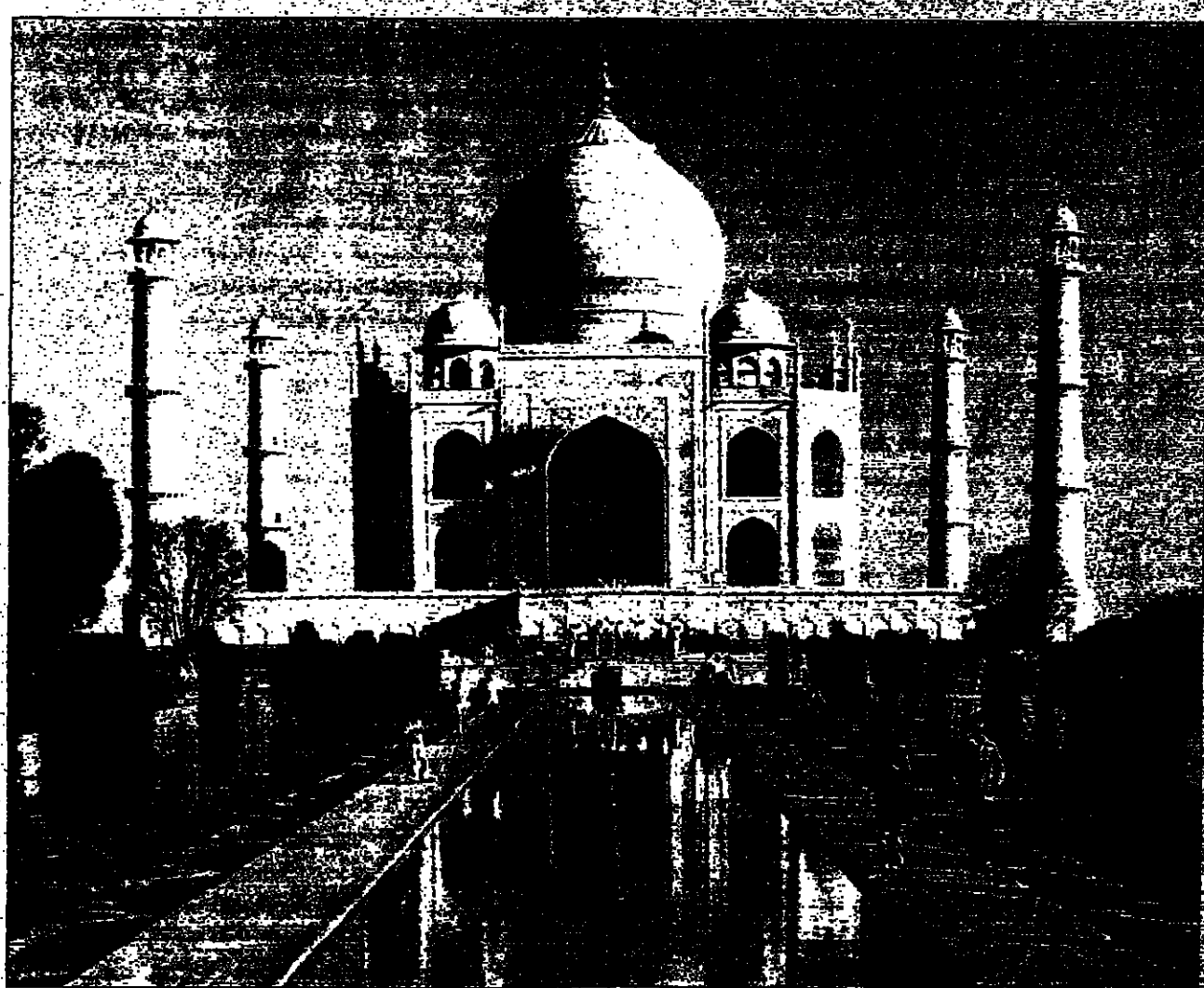
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In which city is the Taj Mahal?

a) Jaipur b) Agra c) Gwalior

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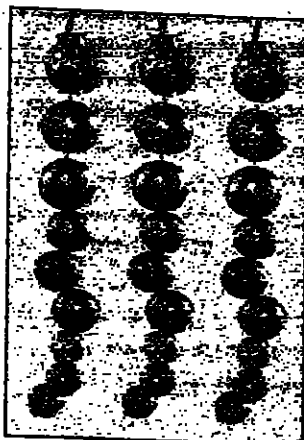


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Ring the changes at Christmas



The telephone shopper's guide to having all things festive delivered to your door

Salvation is at hand for those in whom the very thought of Christmas shopping brings on the vapours. Leslie Geddes-Brown's new book, *Christmas Made Easy*, lists mail-order sources for just about any Christmas essential — festive food and drink, trees, decorations — and could save you having to leave the house at all. Usefully divided into sections, giving details of prices, methods of payment, delivery, refunds and specials, it is a marvellous source for telephone shoppers.

Food is covered in two sections: Food as Presents and Christmas Food and Drink. Look in both for giving and for indulging. Send a mouthwatering still-liven cake from Betty's and Taylors of Harrogate or a hand-made rich fruit cake from Real Cakes. The Fine Cheese Company does excellent gift packs, particularly the History of English Cheese. Chocoholics couldn't get through Christmas without a box from Charbonnel et Walker, and any francophile would appreciate a present from Fine Foods from France.

Under Presents for Everyone, you will find: General Catalogues — America Direct sounds interesting and different, and I can recommend Beckett & Graham for elegantly traditional gifts: books, cassette, CDs, and videos; children's gifts; teenagers' gifts; problem people — includes theatre tokens and Anything Left-Handed; stocking fillers from £1 upwards and more.

Clothes and Accessories covers a wide range from smoked dresses for your own Christmas angel (Little Treasures) to a Jasper Conran number for Mama (Kingshill Collection). For women, call on Brora for sophisticated cashmere at competitive prices. David Nieper for slinky lingerie. Flavell & Flavell for leather



bags and Gilly Forge for hats. Choose a shirt from T.M. Lewin for the city slicker, or a pilot's jacket from Aviation Leathercraft for any man with a longing to be Biggles. I also like the sound of Peta Flint's wool, cotton and cashmere socks, knitted to size.

House and Garden will provide inspiration for gifts for house-proud friends, whether their style is ethnic/modern (Bor-bay Duck) or nostalgic (Tobias and the Angel). It also covers needlework kit sources (such as Glorafilia), bed and table linen, and more. For gardeners, choose

a lasting present from Cottage Garden Roses or Kootenaw Doves. Those presents you would love to receive but would feel guilty about buying for yourself come under Luxuries. Frankincense & Myrrh bath goodies from Czech & Speake, or Neroli, probably the ultimate self-indulgent aromatic. Pretty presents and glamorous dressing table dressers from Penhaligon's (try its new unisex cologne, Quercus — every time I wear it someone asks what it is).

Special Interests and Sports is my favourite section. I can think of one friend in Australia who will love me for ever if I choose a present for him from Archers Ad-

dicts, and, for those friends with everything, I intend to browse through the Magic by Post catalogue. Shop for the sailors through The Maritime Company or Nauticalia, for the mushroom fanatic through Mycologue. In short, there's something for everyone — and, if your dialling finger gives out, you can even contact the Overseas Posting Company, which will find and post all your presents for friends abroad.

STEPHANIE LEWIS
● *Christmas Made Easy* — Christmas Shopping by Mail Order by Leslie Geddes-Brown is published in paperback by Metro at £7.99.

RUTH GLEDHILL hears the five finalists in the Preacher of the Year award

A string of stirring sermons



THE thought of five sermons in one sitting, even with each one limited to a maximum of ten minutes, could have been enough to put the most tireless ecclesiastical off church for life. But perhaps it was the exceptionally high quality of these sermons that kept the hundreds in the congregation transfixed in their seats for the two-hour duration. This was the final of the second Preacher of the Year award, organised by the College of Preachers and sponsored by *The Times*. Busloads of supporters had arrived from as far afield as Yorkshire and the Welsh valleys. The preachers, whittled down to five from an initial entry of 250 and a shortlist of 30, seemed calmer than their supporters as they waited, side-by-side in the front row.

After the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull, prayed "for all those charged with preaching the truth", we sang the beautiful communion hymn, *Just as I am, without one plea*. Then it was time for Canon Bill Anderson of St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Aberdeen, to kick off. The only Catholic to make the shortlist and final, he seemed the most nervous until he got into his stride on his text from Psalm 51: "The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise." In the end, he epitomised his topic: "The battle goes on, in all of us, between pride and humility; and the lines can be blurred at times, the vice seeming almost to be the virtue."

The Rev Christopher Burken, vicar of Whitegate in Cheshire, preached on Psalm 55: "O that I had wings like a dove: for then would I flee away and be at rest." He told the moving story of his own terror as a boy when he yearned to escape his godfather's plan to take him to Sunday school for the first time. Dr Arnold Keelen, author of *Ee By Gum, Lord!*, a version of the gospels in



The winner: Canon Bill Anderson

Yorkshire dialect, preached on Jerusalem, "a city at unity with itself" according to the psalm. He addressed this impossible text admirably. "The only hope of unity lies not in conferences and resolutions, but in a change of heart in a sufficient number of individual men and women," he said and continued: "It has suddenly become fashionable, indeed compulsory, to talk about moral values and the building of the Kingdom of God on earth. And yet there's little talk, and less conviction, about what happens when we die."

Mrs Peat, preaching on the psalmic reference to singing the Lord's song in a strange land, sang the Boney M hit from the pulpit. "Why do we insist that God's song can only be sung in a building that looks and feels like a stately home," she said, reminding us that we live in "a land of strange music. Just listen to what comes out of your teenagers' bedrooms, or the stereos of cars on the street."

Finally, it was left to the Rev Bernard Thomas, an Anglican from the South Wales valleys, to tackle the most difficult text of the day from Psalm 149: "Let the

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AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Much-needed tea, coffee and sandwiches supplied by the College of Preachers. ★★★★★

praise of God be in their mouths; and a two-edged sword in their hands." Like all the finalists, Mr Thomas had not chosen the text for himself but had it presented to him. But he rose to the challenge with fiery Welsh zeal. Christ himself had warned that he came not to bring peace, but a sword, he reminded us: "It is cruciform in design and, like the cross, it can defend and save as well as maim and destroy. So we assert that the proper service of the Christian sword is to defend and keep the faith."

A heated debate between the judges of Bookers-style intensity followed. The winner surprised many, but none was more astonished than the priest himself. Mr Anderson declared himself "astounded" as he ascended the chancel steps to collect his prize, a bronze designed by Ros Stracey of a dove, representing the Holy Spirit.

● Southwark Cathedral, Montague Close, London SE1 9DA (0171-407 3708)

The 30 shortlisted sermons have been published in *The Times Best Sermons of 1996* (Cassell, £9.99).

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Leslie Thomas
lets the train
take the
strain on a
trip to Spain

Page 23

THE TIMES Travel

Austria still
has much to
offer as a
classic ski
destination

Page 19

Some corner of a foreign field

ROBIN NEILLANDS
walks in the
footsteps of the
fallen in the
battlefields of the
First World War

Good weather does not suit the Somme. You expect a dark and brooding background for a battlefield visit, but good weather is always a bonus. On this beautiful October morning, standing on the road beyond the Newfoundland Memorial Park, I could see for miles over the old Great War battlefield, across the Ancre to Mash Valley, High Wood and Pozieres, further than I had ever seen before in a dozen visits to this bloody ground.

At my feet lay a litter of shells, harvested by the autumn ploughing. On the opposite ridge stood the great bulk of the Thiepval Memorial to the 73,000 men missing on the Somme: two reminders that something terrible happened here.

Battlefield visits are growing more popular and few battlefields attract as many visitors as those of the Great War. Tens of thousands of people, mostly British, arrive every year in Ypres, Arras or Albert to tour the sites, perhaps because they are interested in the Great War or perhaps, although with increasing rarity, to visit the grave of a family member who was cut down.

The British section of the Old Front Line, where the trenches lay from 1914 to 1917, is about 90 miles in length, from Diksmuide in Belgium to the river Somme. It is quite possible to cover all the main sites in a few days — in the course of a private visit or an organised battlefield tour.

My recent visit, organised by Holt's Battlefield Tours of Kent, took in all the main sites with the bonus of some interesting side-trips and a number of talks and lectures on the background to the war and the various battles.

This background is necessary, for apart from its cemeteries, the countryside has long since recovered from the ravages of war and shows few signs of what once happened here.

Ypres was one of the Flanders cloth towns and has been restored to its former state, a splendid medieval town with a superb Cloth Hall in the main square and a wide moat outside the encircling ramparts. But the old walls are still scarred by shellfire, buglers from the local fire brigade still play the last post every evening under the Menen Gate, and the villages to the east carry all the fatal names of the Ypres salient: Messines, Zillebeke, Passendale.

A few miles west of Ypres lies Poperinghe, "Pop" to the Great War soldiers. In the main street of "Pop" stands Talbot House, "Toc H" in the Great War phonetic alphabet, a rest house set up by "Tubby" Clayton, a regimental padre, as a place where soldiers of any rank could mix and mingle, write letters, have a bath or play the piano, away from the constant thunder of the guns. "Toc H" functioned throughout the Great War and is still in operation today, offering cups of tea and simple self-catering accommodation. As a base for visiting the battlefields around Ypres "Toc H" can hardly be bettered. Then



Shell craters and a sea of mud on the Western Front. On the first day of the Somme offensive there were 60,000 British casualties, including 19,000 dead. The cemeteries are almost the only reminders of their sacrifice

SOMME FACT FILE

■ Holt's Battlefield Tour includes four days in Belgium and France and costs from £340 per person, with half-board accommodation, all travel, entrance fees to sites and lectures about the First World War. A brochure and full information is available from Holt's Battlefield Tours, 15 Market Street, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9DA (01304 612248).

■ Talbot House, "Toc H", Stadhuis-Markt, B-8970 Poperinghe, Belgium (0032 57 33 40 81). "Toc H" has an English guardian who advises booking as early as possible, especially for trips in the summer months, as it is very popular with visitors.

■ For reading about the war before you visit, Sarah Anderson of the Travel Bookshop (0171-727 7694) recommends: *Birdsong*, a novel by Sebastian Faulks (Vintage, £5.99, ISBN 0 099 38791 3); *Battlefields of the First World War* by Major and Mrs Holt (Pavilion, £7.99, ISBN 1 857 9570 8); *The Somme Battlefields* by Martin and Mary Middlebrook (Penguin, £2.12, ISBN 0 140 12847 6); *Michelin Green Guide to Flanders, Picardy and the Paris Region* (£8.50, ISBN 2 061 34402 X).

■ Further information from the Belgian Tourist Office, 29 Princes Street, London W1 (0171-629 0230) and from the French Government Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-493 5174).

Festubert and Neuve-Chapelle are undistinguished and the battlefield of Loos is overlooked now, as it was in 1915, by slag heaps of the local coal pits.

On, therefore, to Vimy Ridge for splendid views across the Douai plain and the scene of Canadian triumphs. The Canadians are very good at memorials and this one is no exception. The tunnels and trenches have been preserved, the young Canadian guides who come to work here in the summer are well-informed and the site of this successful Great War battle makes an enjoyable visit.

So too does pretty Arras to the south, another of these medieval wool towns now restored to something approaching its former grandeur. The Grande Place and the Place des Heros are magnificent, lit up after dark and ideal for an after-dinner stroll.

And so, on the following morning, to the Somme. The centre for touring the Somme battlefields is the little town of Albert, where the Hotel de la Basilique does a very good lunch. This stands beside the basilica topped by the famous Golden Virgin which was hit by shellfire and hung over the street below.

Infantry marching up to the Old Front Line had to pass under the leaning Virgin of Albert, and the story went that when she fell the war would end — as indeed it did, shortly after she finally toppled in 1918. The Virgin is now back on her pedestal and can be seen from many parts of the battlefield if the weather is fine.

The battlefield of the Somme is becoming a tourist attraction. There are museums at Albert and at Delville Wood, cafes have sprung up in the villages to serve tea to British visitors. And the visitors are there in numbers, consulting maps and examining memorials, the men interested, their wives patient, the children frankly bored. You need a guide or to do a little reading to visualise what happened.

And yet the Somme will never be just another place to visit. A thousand cemeteries see to that. The Old Front Line is a place of pilgrimage, and those countless silent headstones will keep it that way, as they have done for the past 80 years.

BEYOND BUKITTINGGI

JOURNEY THROUGH SUMATRA AND CRUISE ABOARD THE CALEDONIAN STAR TO SRI LANKA
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Exchange the chill of a British February for the warmth and colour of Sumatra and the Indian Ocean. Our journey will begin in Sumatra at the old Dutch Hill Station of Bukittinggi, one of the loveliest towns in Sumatra. This is an excellent starting point, which although close to the Equator offers warm, but invigorating weather due to its altitude. The surrounding scenery is breathtakingly beautiful and after our four nights in the excellent Pusako Resort Hotel where you can relax and explore the local area and the fascinating Minang culture we will drive on to Sipirok famous for its thermal springs.

Our next stop will be one of Sumatra's most famous sites — Lake Toba, the

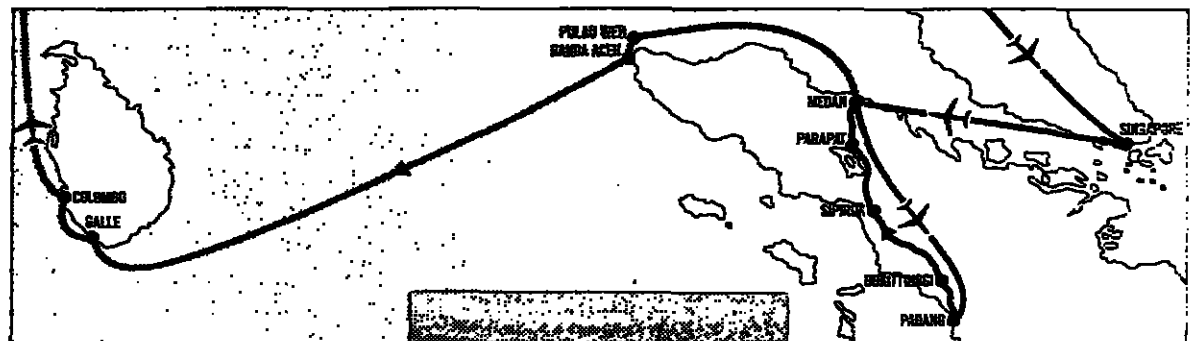
largest lake in South East Asia and an area of outstanding natural beauty. We will have three days to explore the countryside from our comfortable base at Parapat before driving to the port of Medan on Sumatra's north eastern coast. Here we will embark on the Caledonian Star for a seven night voyage which will take us to the northern tip of Sumatra and a beautiful island of Pulau Weh and the city of Banda Aceh.

After our busy ten days on Sumatra we now have the luxury of three relaxing days as we sail the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, bound for Sri Lanka. Our first landfall will be the port of Galle, one of Sri Lanka's best kept secrets, followed by a visit to Colombo from

where we will visit the island's interior and the hill-town of Kandy.

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THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London (Heathrow) - Singapore with Singapore Airlines, departing mid-morning.

DAY 2 Singapore - Medan Arrive in the morning and connect with the short flight to Padang. Drive through the lush green hills to Bukittinggi for a 4 night stay at the first class Pusako Hotel.

DAYS 3, 4 & 5 Bukittinggi-Sipirok Visits will be made to the excellent museum, Fort de Kock, Kota Gadang, Lake Maninjau and Lake Maninjau. Time to relax in the hotel's garden, by the pool or walk in the surrounding hills.

DAY 6 Bukittinggi-Sipirok Today offers spectacular mountain scenery as we wind our way past plantations to Sipirok for an overnight stay.

DAY 7 Sipirok-Parapat Continue by road, stopping at villages en-route to Parapat for a 3 night stay at the Niagara Hotel in the pine-clad Batak Highlands.

DAYS 8 & 9 Parapat At 3000ft the weather will be cool, but not bracing. Full day excursion to Samosir Island and Ambatara with its 3 megalithic complexes. Free time at Lake Toba.

DAY 10 Parapat-Medan Drive to Medan's port of Belawan. Embark Caledonian Star and sail in the evening.

DAY 11 Pulau Weh-Banda Aceh Morning at sea. In the afternoon drop anchor off the island

paradise of Pulau Weh, where you could be forgiven for thinking you were in the Caribbean in the evening sail across to Banda Aceh, a charming and historic Sumatran city.

DAYS 12 Banda Aceh Spend the day in this city, known as the 'Doorway to Mecca' in the Middle Ages because of its importance as the pilgrimage route.

DAYS 13, 14 & 15 At sea

DAY 16 Galle (Sri Lanka) Visit the old Dutch Fort, museum, lighthouse, mosque and church. Then wander the narrow streets of traditional houses and shops for handicrafts. Sail during dinner along the coast to Colombo for an overnight mooring.

DAY 17 Colombo Disembark after breakfast and drive through the lush hills of Kandy, stopping en-route at the Elephant Orphanage. In Kandy visit the magnificent 'Temple of the Tooth', the colonial style Queens Hotel and the Botanic Garden. Evening departure with British Airways to London.

DAY 18 London (Gatwick) Morning arrival.

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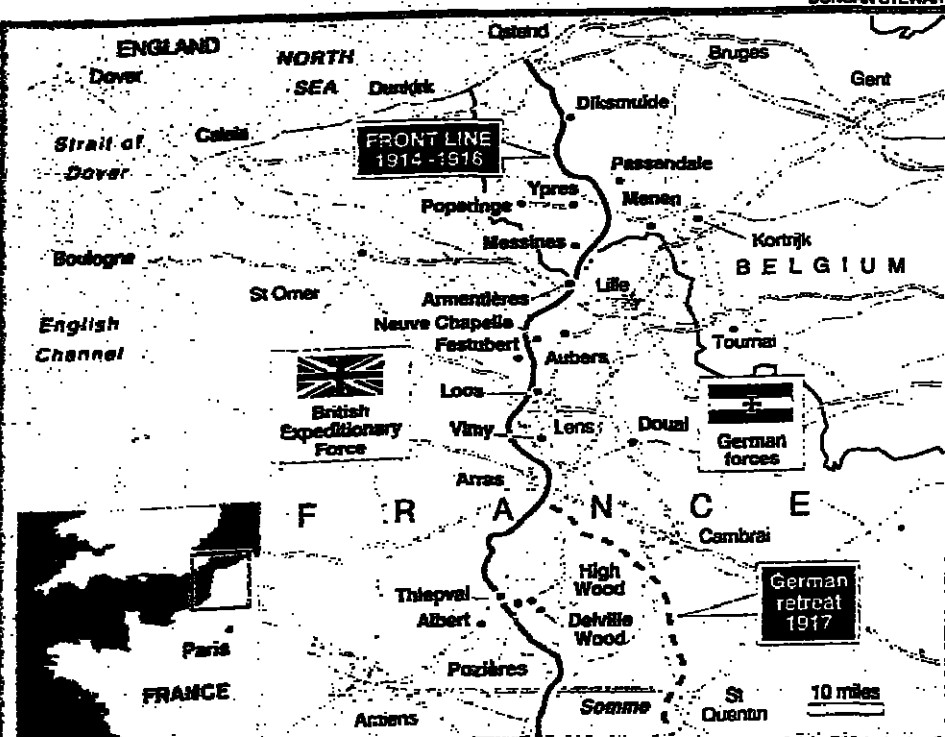
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The easy rider takes pride of place

My horse stopped dead in her tracks and refused to budge another foot. We watched as five others lurched their way to the other side of the boggy swamp, at times almost disappearing into the squelching mud. Beyond the valley ahead loomed two large mountains, denuded and charred by bush fires. Behind, was a slope so steep that we had had to dismount to get down it.

Mwezi, an ex-polo pony, considered the option of remaining on her own with a novice rider and discarded it. We plunged into the bog and

Mwezi disappeared up to her neck. I disappeared up to my waist. Horse and rider emerged muddled on the other side, only to be confronted by an unforgivable river so we had to turn back.

Our guide, Harry, who had been following animal tracks in uncharted territory in the Nyika valley in Malawi, refused to admit defeat. Three hours later, I galloped into camp, with a very sore bottom.

The five-day ride in the stunning hills of the Nyika National Park amid herds of roan, eland, reedbuck and zebra, was part of a three-week "wilderness" safari.

The safari, put together by David Foot, an English guide, covered some of the remotest parts of Zambia and Malawi.

Riding and walking safaris are becoming increasingly popular in Africa where old hands are tiring of the ritual of watching animals from the comfort of a Land Rover, while several other Land Rovers look on.

Foot, who has his own wood cabin at the Nyika, in the North West tip of Malawi, has been running the riding safaris for the past two years. He has 21 horses, thoroughbreds and mixed-breed bush ponies, many of them brought from Zimbabwe. All are rigorously trained for safari before being let loose on clients.

Foot, who lived in Malawi as a boy and has an infectious enthusiasm for the country, has joined an informal group called the African Horse Safari Association, which has other members in South Africa, Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

Our group of six ranged from beginners to those who had ridden a bit but not for 20 years, to two experienced riders. Two opted out of the riding straight away, content with walking, bird watching or wildflower hunting — the

SAFARI FACT FILE

- Art of Travel (0171-738 2038) offers tailor-made safaris in East and Southern Africa from £3,908 per person.
- Heart of Africa Safaris (as above) offers safaris in Malawi and Zambia, from £185 per person per night.
- Remote Africa Safaris (as above) prices start at £160 per person per day.
- Reading: *Survivor's Song* by Della and Mark Owens (HarperCollins, £3.99, ISBN 0 00638 006 4); *Venture to the Interior* by Laurens van der Post (Penguin, £7.99, ISBN 0 14001 238 9); *Guide to Malawi* by Philip Briggs (Bradt, £10.95, ISBN 1 89832 335 6); *Guide to Namibia and Botswana* by Chris McIntyre and Simon Atkins (Bradt, £10.95, ISBN 1 89832 300 3).

Nyika has an abundance of spectacular birds and rare flowers, including 120 species of orchid. For the rest of us, it was early starts in the cool of the morning before a four or five-hour ride across rolling hills, following animal tracks circling mountains and crossing streams. We often saw herds of zebra or roan sunning themselves

on the Nyika plateau or making their way to a stream. The views were breathtaking as we walked or trotted in single file, occasionally breaking into a gallop across the montane grasslands that cover more than 3,000km. At times, we scrambled up blackened hills with huge red swirls whipped up by the wind, or

edged down perpendicular gulleys. By mid-afternoon, the sun hammering on our backs, we would spot the welcoming tents of our next camp snuggling in the dip of a valley, usually by a cool stream. Cups of tea and fruit cake appeared as stories of dangerous feats and wild animals were embellished. The tales grew wilder and more raucous as the gin and whisky bottles came out around the camp fire, saddle sores forgotten.

Foot combines his riding safaris in the Nyika with walking safaris in other areas of Malawi and in Zambia. We spent the first two weeks of the safari exploring the wilder regions of Zambia, venturing as far as possible from civilisation, after which we ended up on the shores of Lake Malawi for two days of heaven in a luxury hotel.

We pitched camp in wild isolated areas. One day, we passed a deserted village of five or six huts. The roof of one hut had collapsed. We were told that a lion had jumped into the straw hut and eaten the inhabitants a few days before. Hunters had hung a dead buffalo on the trees nearby in the hope of an easy catch. Other days, we crossed rivers on wooden

plankons just large enough to hold the Land Rover before disappearing into the tall savannah grass the other side.

The most comfortable camp, although it was one of the most remote, was Mwaleshi, pitched on the edge of the Mwaleshi River, in North Luangwa National Park. We left our Land Rovers at the edge of the park and put ourselves into the hands of Brian Jackson, our guide for the next few days.

As we walked and drove round the park, he pointed out lions, elephants, hippos, buffalo, wildebeest and leopard. Our most exciting adventure occurred on the day we climbed up to some waterfalls in the Chichenda

Hills. After a hot, tiring walk, we watched hippos lolling in clear rock pools, then climbed further up the waterfalls to find somewhere to swim. We dived from the rocks into a small, deep pool about four metres long, where we cooled off.

Shortly after we got out, someone screamed. The huge head of a crocodile rested on the spot where, minutes earlier, we had hauled ourselves out of the water, its yellow eyes staring at us menacingly.

We looked on in disbelief before it slunk back into the pool, reclaiming its territory.

JILL SHERMAN
● The author was a guest of Art of Travel.

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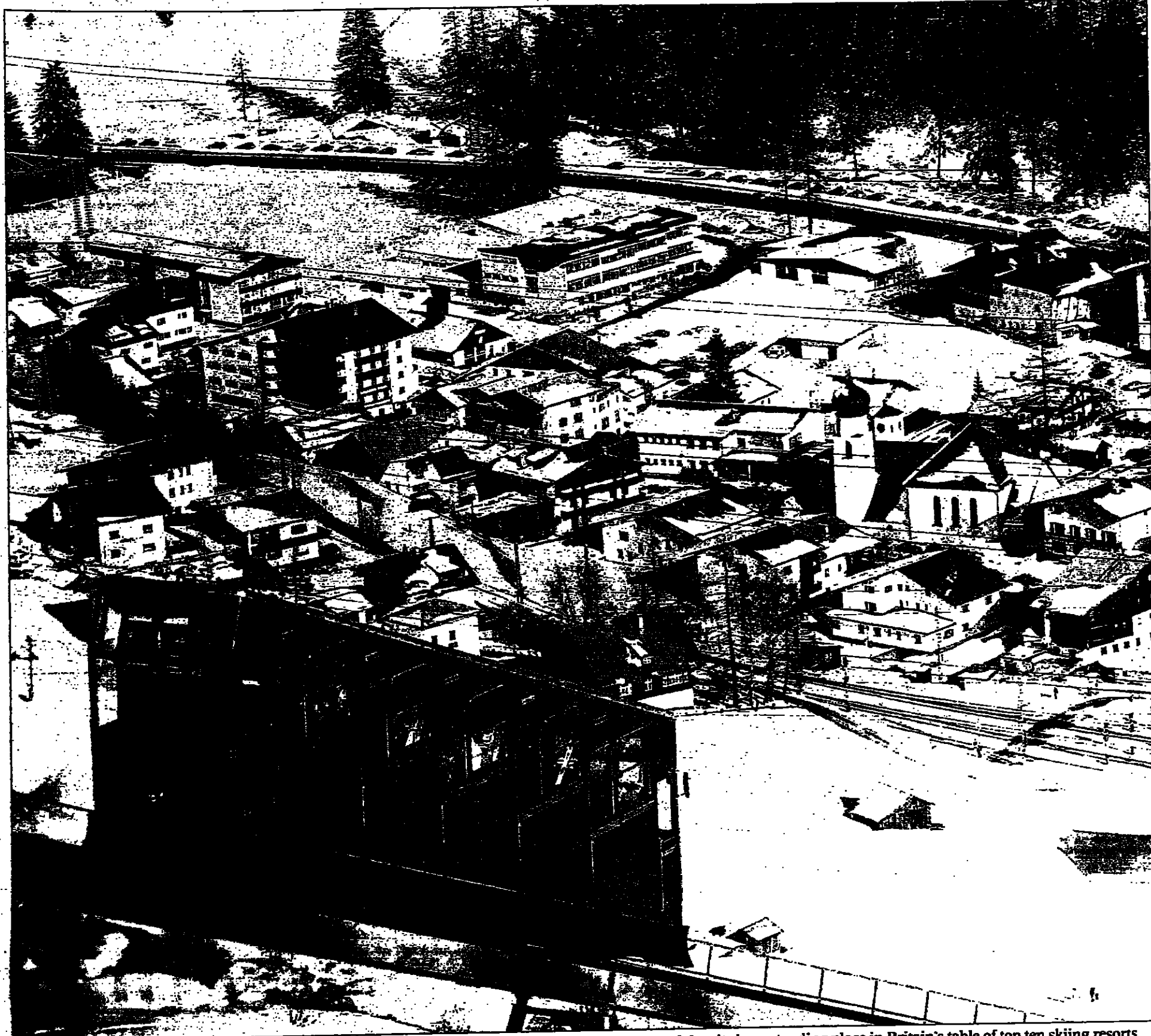
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International skiing: In the final part of his resorts guide, Doug Sager finds Austria caters for all levels

Peak viewing for absolute beginners

ADVERSITY may be the salvation of Austria. Having lost its attraction to upmarket skiers, lured to North America's surer snowfields, and deserted by bargain hunters who have found cheaper if not more cheerful drink in eastern Europe, Austria has an ace up its sleeve this winter — the schilling having measurably improved against sterling in the past 12 months. Austria is also adopting American-style ski pass pricing. This is still on a small scale in the Ötztal and Gastein regions but ahead of its European rivals, meaning that skiers can buy ski passes on five out of seven days, thereby saving money and reducing pressure to ski for six days straight. Another American innovation, ski hosts who guide tourists to the best slopes, appears in Austria this season in the Arlberg. European resorts have been notoriously reluctant to introduce resort guides, antediluvian ski school directors arguing that they usurp the ski teacher's role. Austrian pistes are arguably safer than those of other Alpine nations, where the Austrian version of piste police, Piste Angels, are now in action. Although Austria has seen a reversal of fortunes, losing 4 per cent of its market share last year, its resorts are not empty. Lech, Gargellen and Obergurgl are still booked for many weeks of the season ahead. And some of Britain's biggest tour operators mount their widest resort programmes in Austria, which continues to have the most efficient of UK-based national tourist offices. Self-drive skiers face an extra, if slight, expense in 1997. A motorway tax disc (£9 valid for two months) has been introduced. The disc is valid for toll-free travel on all Austrian roads, and yields discounts on some tunnels.



The funicular railway in St Anton, a resort renowned for the rowdiness of its night life. Last year it lost its long-standing place in Britain's table of top ten skiing resorts

CLASSIC RESORTS

THE skiing in St Anton puts it in the top five of the world's best resorts. This is where Ski Bunnies, now so politically incorrect, were invented, the poster fantasies of the film star skier Hannes Schneider, hero of what is still the world's best ski school, the Arlberg. The bunnies have gone, but ski bums take their place.

St Anton's night life is renowned for its rowdiness, but the early morning streets have been quieter and cleaner these past two seasons. Skiing is just as hard core, on hard bumps and in soft powder runs, most famously off the rocky peak of the Valhalla. Access here is restricted to skiers accompanied by a mountain guide, even though the long run down to Zurs is well within the limits of intermediate off-piste skiers.

Last year St Anton lost its long-standing place in Britain's top ten resorts according to volume of traffic. Kitzbühel is now the only Austrian resort in the UK top ten. Famous for its Hahnen-Kamm downhill race course, and at least equally so for its zipski abandon, Kitzbühel has lost skiers in recent years as visitors lose patience with poor snow cover and long lift queues.

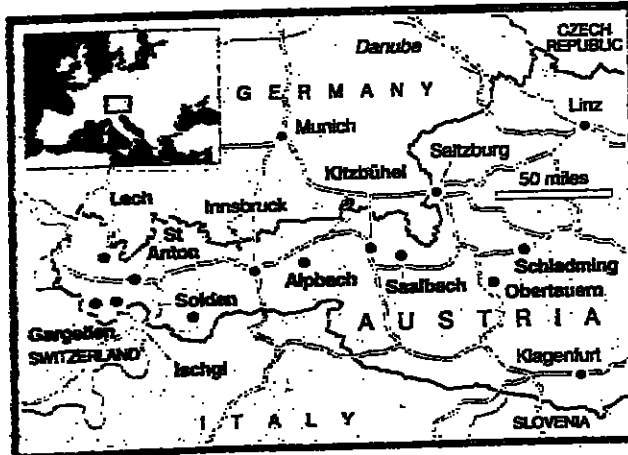
Both these problems have been redressed, not least by this year's new Hahnen-Kamm gondola, and Kitzbühel retains its title to the most architecturally attractive of any major ski town. Its hotels and cafes are comfortable and cosy. And there's lots for non-skiers.

Lech, although less known to the average skier than Kitzbühel or St Anton, is nonetheless Austria's classic resort, and arguably number one in the Alps when rated according to per capita income per visitor. Lech is linked on the extensive Arlberg ski pass network which includes St Anton. But there are no direct lifts connecting the two resorts, a deliberate policy on Lech's part to exclude the hoi polloi, or as residents say.

Lech pampers its guests shamelessly, with "magic carpet" moving pavement transport to the ski lift and with lifts inside the cable car building, where most other resorts in the Alps expect skiers to hike up steps. Piste grooming in Lech is consid-



The town centre of St Anton, still a world favourite



national standard. Pensions here have features like swimming pools and steam rooms usually found only in superior hotels. But Lech's ultimate commitment to guaranteeing the quality of its guests' skiing experience is its policy of limiting the total number of skiers on the slopes to 14,000. When, as rarely happens, this limit is calculated to have been reached, the road is closed and ticket windows shuttered.

UNLIKE France's bleak purpose-built complexes, Austria's wood and stone villages with their onion-domed churches put a human face on skiing. Alpbach is typical of low altitude Austrian villages. This year snowmaking has been increased by 50 per cent. Nursery slopes are excellent, and access from Innsbruck is quick and convenient.

Gargellen is less known to British visitors, yet it is one of the best family venues in Austria. Only 150km from Zurich airport and part of the extensive, easy skiing Montafon ski pass region. Obergurgl, at 1740m, is an Austrian anomaly — a French-style purpose-built village high above the tree

Valleys in overall skiing terrain. Saalbach-Hinterglemm's 200km of pistes are well linked, this winter seeing the addition of a six-man chairlift, and seldom bogged down by queues. Not cheap and by no means quiet at night, the village of Saalbach is particularly popular with snowboarders. Skiing around the Saalbach-Hinterglemm circus will not frighten any intermediate, and the sunshine record is excellent.

Austria's most easterly major resort, Schladming, counts only 140km of pistes, and few of these are well connected. But the old town is genuinely delightful, the skiing ego-inflating for intermediates and blessed with an extensive snowmaking system. Advanced skiers have the option of day trips to nearby Obertauern and the Dachstein glacier.

The Ötztal ski arena above Sölden is even smaller, at just over 100km of pistes, but one of the liveliest après ski scenes in the Alps and sometimes offering glacier skiing, depending on snow conditions. The town of Sölden is unabashedly ugly, which is unusual for Austria, but the young intermediates who go seldom see the straggling main street by daylight.

Ischgl's Silvretta ski pass region features 200km of intermediate pistes and the attraction of skiing into duty free Samnaun in Switzerland. The village is charming, unspoilt and boisterous at night. Two new lifts this season should ease the queues considerably.

INTERMEDIATES

WHEN it comes to vast interlinked ski pass regions Austria's Top Tauern, with nearly 800km of pistes, outclasses France's Trois

WORDWATCHING

Answers from page 25

JOTA (c) A Spanish dance in 3/4 or 4/4 time. Also the music of this dance.

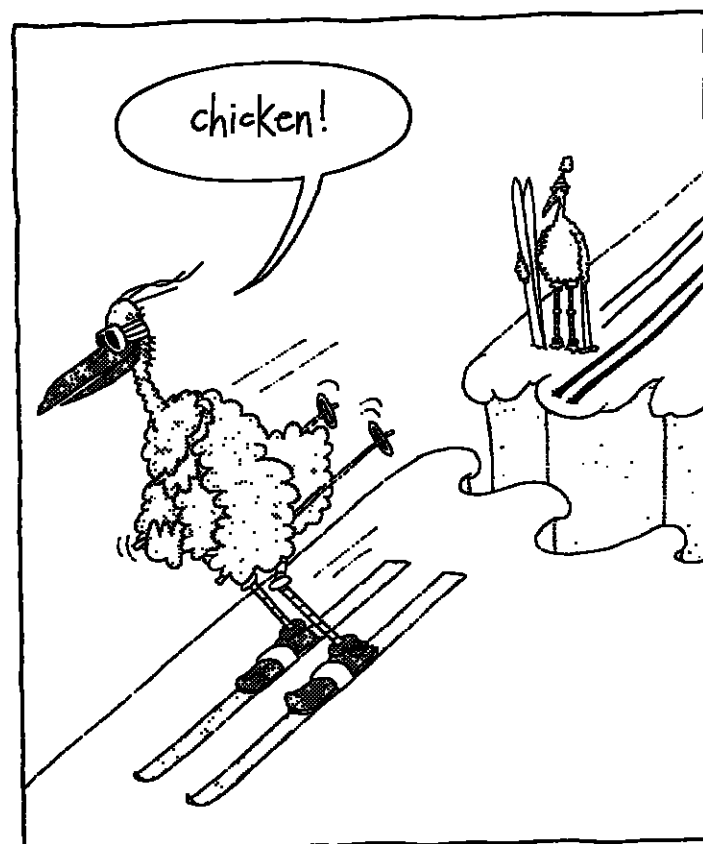
NISAN (b) The first month of the Jewish ecclesiastical year and the seventh of the civil year, formerly called Abib. From the Hebrew Nisan. T. S. Eliot, *Rock*, 1934: "In Shushan the palace, in the month Nisan, / He served the wine to the King Artaxerxes."

HAREMLIK (a) A Turkish harem, by suffixing -lik a place, to the harem. "Relations with European powers soon gave rise to the coining of a word that would embrace not only the haremluk and the seramluk but the entire Royal buildings as a whole. The word seraglio was chosen."

LUES BOSWELLIANA (b) A disease of admiration; a biographer's tendency to magnify his subject. An eponym of James Boswell, Johnson's admiring biographer.

FACT FILE

■ Fewer skiers may be going to Austria, but they have a wealth of choice. Crystal (0181-399 5144), for example, has mounted the largest of all its programmes (30 resorts) in Austria. Inghams (0181-780 4444) also offers more resorts (26) in Austria than anywhere else. Thomson (0990 329329) follows with 15 Austrian resorts. First Choice (0161-745 7000) has 14. Neilson (0113-239 4555) has 13 and Airtoours (01706 260000) has eight Austrian destinations. ■ Made to Measure (01243 533333) can custom design skiing holidays in 25 Austrian resorts. ■ Mark Warner (0171-393 3131) has a highly regarded programme in St Anton. ■ Ski Total (0181-948 6922) is one of the few operators with both a chalet and hotel in Lech and three chalets in St Anton. ■ Ski Equipe (0161-440 0010) features both hotel and chalet holidays in St Anton. ■ Ski Hillwood (0181-866 9993) specialises in price-conscious family holidays to Soll.



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Helsinki: Fine architecture, music and food add some spice to a weekend's sightseeing and island hopping

Baltic tour starts with the Finnish

Helsinki is relatively small for a capital city, but there is more than enough to see and do there on a weekend visit.

The language might seem daunting at first — on your hotel-room television the incredibly long Finnish words seem to fall off the side of the screen when there are subtitled films — but most visitors quickly learn to cope.

Helsinki is a port, and the place to begin sightseeing is at the open-air Kauppatori market at the harbour's edge. It is a jolly place overflowing with fresh fish and fruit, and many Finns take their breakfast of coffee and cakes there. In the middle is a tall obelisk known as "the toothpick".

Out in the harbour, Baltic liners come and go among the smaller craft — when I was there the Queen of Sweden's ship was lying at anchor — and this is the place to get a boat out to Suomenlinna, the group of fortified islands where Helsinki really began.

They now have restaurants and beaches, but the massive fortifications are still there. These were built by the Swedes in the early 18th century to defend their part of Finland from the Russians, and it was under their protection that the fishing village of Helsinki started to grow.

By the early 19th century the Russians had seized the whole of Finland, and in 1812 Tsar Alexander I decreed that Helsinki should become the Finnish capital. It was after this that the beautiful old part of Helsinki began to be built, and it remains largely unspoilt.

From the market you can see a fine line of Neo-Classical houses along the quayside, including the town hall and the president's palace, though he does not live there any more. These were both built by the architect Carl Ludvig Engels, whom the tsar brought in to create the new capital. Engels laid out the wide streets, mostly at right angles, which make

it so easy to find one's way about the centre of the town.

Senaatintori or Senate Square, Engel's main glory, is dominated by the Lutheran cathedral, which rises from the top of a great flight of granite steps and has soaring gilt domes. To one side of it stands the Senate building, on the other the long facade with Ionic columns of Helsinki University.

In the middle of the square there is an 1863 statue of Tsar Alexander II, who gave Finland its independent currency, the *markka* (mark), and established Finnish as the national language. There



are also smart boutiques and cafés in the square, and a little museum of curiosities.

At the turn of the century a wave of new, nationalist-minded young architects launched National Romantic architecture, the Finnish version of Art Nouveau. If you walk from the market up the double-laned Esplanadi into the more modern part of Helsinki, you come across many fine blocks and buildings from this period, their sculpted facades adorned with bears, squirrels and other countryside motifs.

The "skyscraper" tower on the Torni Hotel startled people when it was built at about this time, but it is now a useful landmark for the walker, and there is a lively bar on its top floor from which you can see the city spread out below.

Finland achieved independence in 1917, and since then it has moved into the modern world with a vengeance. An arm of the sea cuts through Helsinki, with a park stretch-



The magnificent Lutheran cathedral in Senate Square, with four towers and a soaring, gilded central dome, dominates Helsinki's waterfront, lined with Neo-Classical houses

ing along the shore, and it is here that you can find two of the most impressive new buildings — Alvar Aalto's Finlandia Hall, a concert and congress hall of 1975, and the enormous National Opera, which opened three years ago.

It is worth finding out what music and opera is on in Helsinki before you go; it is always of a high standard. This week a powerful new

opera based on Josef Karel Capek's *Insect Play* opened, with music by the Finnish composer Kalevi Aho.

Food and drink in Helsinki can be very enjoyable. A great delicacy is reindeer steak, which tastes like tender, sweet venison and is often served with a wine sauce. Seafood is outstanding; I had a really delicious rice salad with prawns on a

trip round the islands. Finnish pancakes are good, especially when served with cloudberry jam. There is also a delicious, red cloudberry liqueur. But prices are high in Helsinki, especially for alcohol, on which there is heavy duty. Two large beers can cost £6.

The best area for bars and clubs, of varying degrees of decorousness, is around Annankatu street, not far from the Torni hotel skyscraper. Friday night is when Finns really like to get drunk.

On a long weekend there is time for an excursion into the country north of Helsinki.

Two places within fairly easy reach by bus or hired car are the house of the composer Sibelius at Jarvenpää, in a peaceful lake and forest setting, and the charming "National Romantic" house of the architect Eliel Saarinen in similar surroundings at Hvitträsk. It was here that I ate my reindeer.

Further north, a plethora of lakes and forests stretch for hundreds of miles. But these would need a whole summer to get around.

DERWENT MAY

● The author was a guest of Helsinki city council.

HELSINKI FACT FILE

- British Airways (0345 222111) and Finnair (0171-408 1222) fly daily to Helsinki from £219 return, including tax.
- Aeroscope, (01608 650103), Norvika (0171-409-7334), Cresta (0161-927-7000), Scandinavian Travel Service (0171-930-6666), Scantours (0171-839-2927) and City Breaks (0141-951-8411) offer Helsinki city breaks.
- Reading: *Kalevala: Or the Land of Heroes* ed. Elias Lönnrot (Harvard University Press, £9.95, ISBN 0 67450 010 5); *A Short History of Finland* by Fred Singleton (Cambridge University Press, £12.95, ISBN 0 52131 136 5); *Finland — Travel Survival Kit* by Markus Lehtipuu (Lonely Planet, £11.99, ISBN 0 86442 356 X).
- For further information and suggested hotel accommodation, contact the Finnish Tourist Board office, 30-35 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5LP (0171-930 5871).



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JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Title track

DAMON HILL starts the defence of his Formula 1 world championship title on Sunday, March 9 in Melbourne. Motor Racing International (01304 612424) offers a five-night package for £1,450, including return flights and a four-star hotel. A four-day pass to the track costs an extra £255.

Sea shanty

PAVAROTTI sings at the Royal Westmoreland hotel in Barbados on March 29. Concert tickets cost £300. Caribbean Connection (01244 341131) offers two-bedroomed villas, from £1,589 for seven nights, including flights.

City breaks

BRITISH Airways Holidays (01293 723100) has

launched its 1997 Cities Brochure, with more than 50 destinations in Europe, the Middle East, America and Canada. Lucerne in Switzerland (£239 for two nights) and Sofia in Bulgaria (£505 for three nights) are both new. BA offers free connecting domestic flights with the Heathrow and Gatwick departures.

Escapade

TO CATER for independent travellers, from gap year students to executives on sabbaticals, or anyone else fancying the "big trip" down under, Austravel (0171-584 0202) has opened the Great Escape Shop at 152 Brompton Road, London SW3. The company has also launched the *Great Escape Guide* with details of fares deals from £299 one way, round-the-world trips from £699, accommodation, working visas and where to find adventure with a buzz.

● More tips on page 23.

SKI SWEDEN AND SNOW ADVENTURES

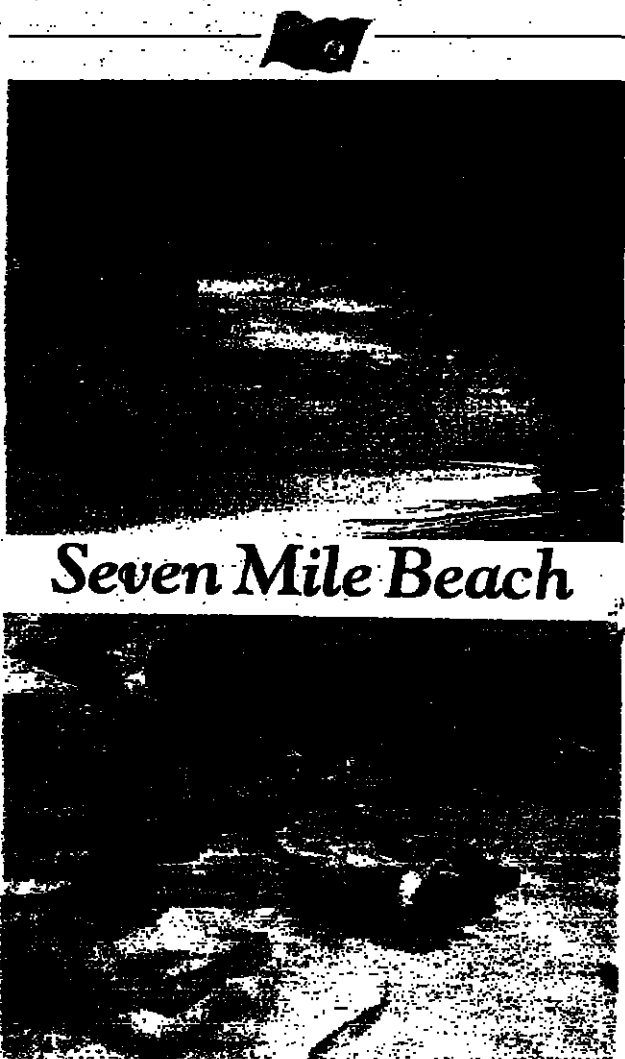
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Buckinghamshire: Majestic beechwoods haunted by highwaymen; and the sophisticated charm of Marlow

A Chiltern ramble for all seasons

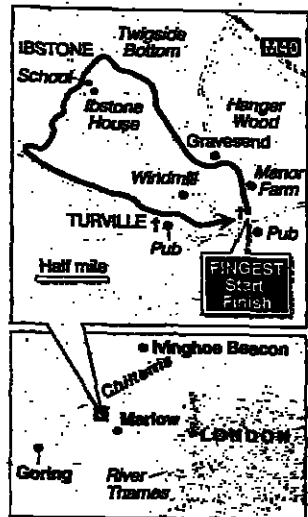
The Chiltern hills are best seen from the west, looking across the Oxfordshire plain. From there they look most impressive, a steep escarpment running across the land from Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire to the Thames Valley at Goring in Berkshire, topped all the way with a bronze crown of beechwoods.

The Chilterns behind that escarpment are a mixture of valleys with the name "End", where streams run out, and "Bottom", or riverless valleys, all dotted with small villages and ancient churches. Today these hills are a dormitory for the London commuter or a weekend retreat for the chattering classes.

In medieval times, Chiltern residents were made of sterner stuff. These thick beechwoods were then the haunt of footpads and highwaymen, who preyed on the traffic down the Oxford to London Road. That royal appointee, the Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds, was charged with catching these villains and hanging them from the nearest tree.

Times change. The footpads have gone and the ramblers have moved in, roving along the 1,000 miles of footpaths that seam these hills from end to end, with the Ridgeway long-distance footpath following the ridge for 60 miles, from Ivinghoe to the Goring Gap. Fortunately, there are plenty of shorter walks and this circular one around the Turville valley, which will take no longer than an afternoon, includes three of the prettiest villages, a variety of scenery and some very fine views.

The walk begins in the village of Fingest, Buckinghamshire, five miles northwest of Marlow. The Chequers pub in Fingest offers a very good lunch and just across the road is the yellow-washed church of St



Bartholomew, which has stood here since the time of Alfred, though the first recorded vicar arrived in 1217 and the gables date from the time of Crecy (1346). Follow the lane beside the church past Manor Farm and up to the crossroads at Gravesend. From there a track or greenway leads west along the northern foot of the ridge into the woods that lead to Twigsbottom.

Because the Chilterns are composed of chalk and the earth that cloaks the chalk can be muddy, boots or walking wellies are advisable and walkers should be careful on the steeper slopes. Once the woods broaden out look for the track to the right, a proper footpath, which leads to Twigsbottom Farm and out on to the lane by the school and Ivinghoe House, once owned by the writer Rebecca West. Three roads come together here and at the junction look for the stile and the path that curves down the hill to the little church of St Nicholas, at the edge of Park Wood.

The church, just south of Ivinghoe village, has a short wood-slatted tower, a fine gallery and a number of

interesting tombs and memorials. Ivinghoe church, part Saxon, part Norman, part Early English, is also marvellously warm and well worth a visit on a chilly winter day.

The beechwoods are the glory of the Chilterns and the last leg of the walk leads through them back to Turville. Go out the gate of Ivinghoe church and take the lane opposite which drops down along the south side of Park Wood. It then becomes a track and shortly afterwards a footpath. This path climbs slightly to the ridge that runs above the Turville valley and emerges on to an open grassy slope with wide views towards the Thames Valley and the east.

At the second track junction the main footpath drops down the side of the valley into Turville, which has a fine pub, the Bull and Butcher, and another beautiful, well-tended church largely built in the local flintstone. This is also the fictional parish church of Dawn French in the television series *The Vicar of Dibley*. St Mary's, Turville has some medieval blazonry attributed to the Dukes of Burgundy and a small exhibition of photographs illustrating the life and work of the Chiltern "boders", those hardy woodmen who lived in these hills until recent times and made chair parts for the furniture factories of High Wycombe.

Overlooking Turville, and a landmark for miles around, is a fine white-painted windmill with sails, and if it looks familiar that may be because it was featured in the film *Chitty Bang Bang*. The windmill is now a private house but take the path up to it anyway, if only for the splendid views.

Turville is a pretty place, very photogenic, and after a look around there take the footpath across the edge of



Exploring the village of Turville, with its beautiful parish church, provides a worthwhile stopping point on a walk through the Chilterns

the fields, around the base of Turville Hill and so back to Fingest for a well-earned drink at The Chequers.

The Chilterns are beautiful at any time of the year and splendid walking country. In winter deer can often be seen browsing on the beech mast; in spring the bluebells make a carpet under the beech trees; in summer the woods are shady and the grass lush; and in autumn the colours of the leaves are a glory to behold. This is a walk for all seasons, the perfect way to spend a day.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

FACT FILE

- The Chilterns walks can be followed on OS Explorer map No 3, Chiltern Hills South, scale 1:25,000. The walk is four miles but allow three hours. Warm clothing is advisable.
- To stay in the area try the Fox of Ivinghoe Country Hotel, Ivinghoe (01494 638289). Its weekend rate of £88 is for two nights' B&B for two people.

Compleatly English

Isaac Walton wrote *The Compleat Angler*, his classic idyll on the joys and stratagems of fishing, in 1653. Few, apart from dedicated anglers, now read his detailed descriptions of this ancient sport. But the tranquil and bucolic resonance of his work is enough to associate it for ever in the mind with the pastoral ideal. Not surprisingly, therefore, the hotel standing on the spot in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, where Walton is believed to have written his work bears the same quaint title.

Not all visitors to this Trust House Forte hotel are anglers, but few can escape the association. Marlow is one of the most picturesque little towns nestling on the river's sheltered bends in the Thames Valley. A weir where the water cascades downstream on its way to London stretches in a noisy, splashing line beside the hotel, and lingering over a fine dinner watching the river is the best part of a stay.

Nothing could be so quintessentially English and the hotel has long attracted visitors seeking such a mood: J.M. Barrie, Noel Coward and Nancy Mitford were among the visitors before the Second World War. Edgar Wallace, Scott Fitzgerald and Tallulah Bankhead set a trend for Americans. Heathrow airport, 20 minutes away, has brought Marlow uncomfortably close to the international commuter.

Marlow town has enough history and heritage to fill a weekend: the High Street has houses from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, coaching inns, bow-windowed shops, half-timbered buildings and old pubs with low beams to give you a very sore head. The old 12th-century church was subject to constant flooding and, when its foundations finally rotted a century ago, it was replaced by an imposing Victorian Gothic building that competes for attention with the slender, white-painted suspension bridge of 1832.

George III lived at Marlow before he became king. Shelley lived there in 1818 and wrote his *Revolt of Islam*.



Marlow: the hotel and weir

while his wife, Mary, wrote *Frankenstein*. T.S. Eliot lived in West Street and used to cycle to Maidenhead for the London train each day.

Commuters nowadays are richer. The branch line survives, just, but it is mostly Jaguars and BMWs that take the executives to London; their houses, wives and lifestyle among the most affluent in the country. Marlow, with some 14 boutiques, is a paradise for well-heeled tourists — hardly the image of the rustic Thames Valley that was forever fixed in a literary cliché by Jerome K. Jerome. The procession of boats that people mess about in now have computer-assisted navigational aids, and full cocktail cabinets.

Henley-on-Thames, Cookham and the historic little towns up and downstream from Marlow lock are as picturesque as ever. But their quaintness has been over-restored, over-exploited.

However, the rustic world still exists, only a few miles away. Kenneth Grahame set *The Wind in the Willows* along the riverbank and modelled Toad Hall on nearby Harleyford Manor.

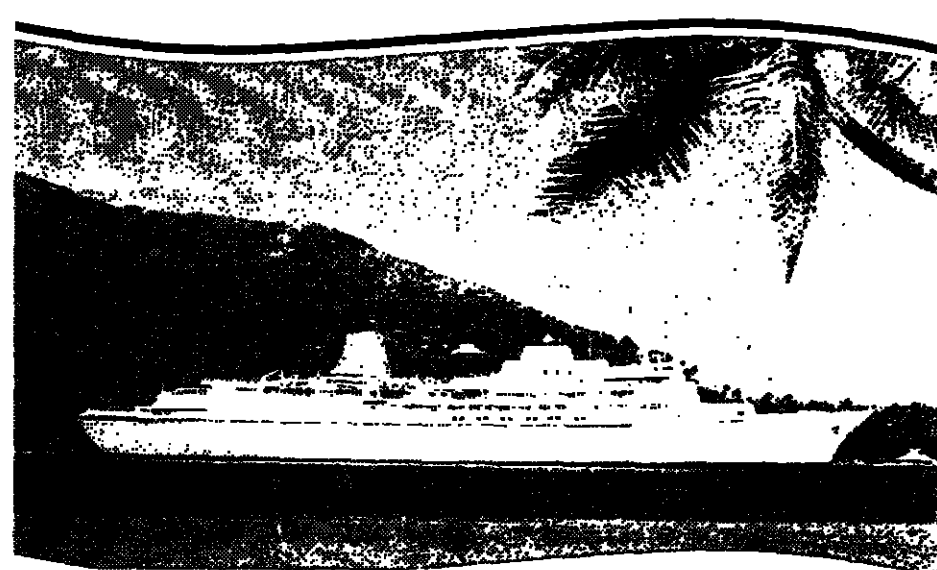
Walkers can still happen upon the lost world of Ratty and Mole, but to escape the suffocating intimacy of the river valley you have to go into the Chilterns. There is plenty to see here: Cliveden, whose famous set mixed scandal and high politics for several generations; West Wycombe, with its 18th-century mausoleum and hill caves where Sir Francis Dashwood founded the notorious Hell Fire Club;

and Waddesdon Manor, the imitation French chateau, built at vast cost a century ago by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to house his priceless collections.

Further west lie Oxford, Blenheim and the Cotswolds. To the north is Woburn Abbey, with fountains, antiques and ancestral splendour, and Stowe's spectacular gardens. Such places are some distance from Marlow, but that makes the indulgence in cream teas or Pimm's beside the Thames all the more welcome on return.

MICHAEL BINYON

- The author was a guest of the Compleat Angler.
- Where to stay: The Compleat Angler, Marlow (01628 484444, fax 01628 486388); rooms for two from £160-£450, Ye Olde Bell Hotel, Hurley (01628 828881); single £95, double £115-140. Weekend break (two nights minimum, half board) £62.50 per person. Cliveden Manor, Taplow (01628 668501); room from £245-£685; the two-night Cliveden Weekend costs £695 for two, including dinner.



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No strain on the train to Spain

Travelling by train through central France is like travelling in space: the views are pleasing but you don't see many people. From Paris to Montpellier, something like 400 miles and four hours 40 minutes as the TGV whirled headlong through the autumn country, I saw only a man fishing in a lake and, just after Nîmes, almost at the end of the journey, a girl in a white dress riding a bicycle past a cornfield.

Undoubtedly there were others, but our journey was so speedy that they vanished. Until we whirled through Valence after two hours 20 minutes, we never went by a platform nor saw a town. The northern flatness went out of France, replaced by hills and vines and sloping meadows occupied by static white cows. Apart from the train, only the sunshine moved, flitting across the landscape, rising across slopes, ducking into valleys, glowing in rivers and ponds.

Our idea of journeying from our house in Salisbury, Wiltshire, to our second home in the south of Spain was, we thought, a particularly good one. Not something that would stand beside some of the explorations so often described in these pages, but an adventure nevertheless.

The Channel crossing had been stormy, but we only read about it in Paris. As the waves rolled, we were having lunch a quarter of a mile below them, in the calm of the tunnel. It was the first time my wife, Diana, and I had done this: catching the 12.53pm Waterloo Eurostar and being at the Gare du Nord by mid-afternoon.

What I missed was the anticipation of arriving in France. Ever since I was in my teens (the day I ordered a well-done steak tartare in Dieppe) I have always enjoyed seeing France coming towards me from the sea. Aboard the train, we were there before we knew it, overtaking juggernauts sizzling along a rainy motorway. It was as though we had never changed countries. Perhaps Eurostar should show a video of what we were missing — the travelling sky, the Channel clouds, the gulls, the storms.

We stayed on the Boulevard Latour Maubourg in one of those silent, almost concealed, hotels where late sunshine came into our third-floor room filtered through the coloured leaves of the trees outside. Paris will always be Paris, only more expensive. Sitting in a left bank café, we listened to a youth playing a saxophone accompanied by another, as they took an unusual combination of a walking, security man and a gate-keeper to a dance on the pavement. We had dinner in a Creole restaurant, where an exotic girl from Guadeloupe, in the French Caribbean, was so excited because on the Monday she was starting a new job — with Norwiking Union.

While she was embarking on this adventure we were continuing with



One of the stopovers was in Barcelona, a city with a charm, grace and enthusiasm of its own, where designs by Miro (above) dot the walkways

ours at the Gare de Lyon. By the time she was doubtless returning breathlessly to describe to her mother the dramas of her first day we had reached Cerbere, the last station in France. We had changed at Montpellier to a sedate train and the pace was more chugging. Through a little tunnel under a hill we went and we were in Port Bou, the first place in Spain.

In the Ramblas of Barcelona the pigeons sit on the roofs of the stalls where parrots are sold in cages. The pigeons peer in through the bars, envious of the birdsed available to the captives, and the parrots gaze out at the pigeons, envious no doubt of their freedom.

Below the trees were people dressed as statues or waxworks, a crowd, a corpse for was it *The Jeweled Man*? Eldorado, clad in gold, a last-looking Columbus. It had to be very hot in those costumes and the enclosed people try to remain motionless. For a few pence you can have a photograph taken with them, and inquisitive children pinch them to see if they are real.

During the Spanish Civil War my father was on a blockade-running ship in Barcelona harbour.

He was ashore in a bar (or somewhere) when the harbour was bombed and his ship sank with all hands. I was eight at the time and I remember the thrill of hearing our name announced on the wireless (they thought he had gone down with the rest). Then we had a telegram to say that he had survived, and the insurance man had to be sent away.

Barcelona is still enough to tempt a wandering sailor, or anyone else. It has charm, grace and enthusiasm. We had a suite in a wonderfully elegant hotel (marbled bathroom) for much less than the cost of our small room in Paris, and we had a fish dinner in one of the waterside restaurants in Port Olympic, established with great imagination for the Barcelona Olympics.

Two mornings later, at eight, our train left Barcelona Santa station for its amazing 14-hour journey through Catalonia, La Mancha and eventually into Andalusia. The Spanish call the railway the *ferrocarril*, the iron way (a railwayman is, romantically, *el ferroviario*) and this one followed

the coast to Valencia, where, in remarkable unison, the passengers stood up as though an anthem was being played and reversed their seats, then we progressed the other way, westwards to the interior.

The route was like a sickle, touching Alcazar de San Juan, deep into the country, and then down to Cordoba (stand up and all change seats) and finally out towards the sea again (change seats) to Malaga. If Spain does not look quite as empty as it does from the air, it still looks empty. Melon farms gave way to wheatfields stretching flat as Oklahoma, to the shimmering horizon. Sometimes a house would appear, white and isolated, sometimes a village, and occasionally a town, strong and remote on a rock, topped with a castle or a church. Even in the wilderness there were glimpses of a motorway but the train curled away as though affronted, and headed for the hills.

The train was often slow but never uncomfortable. We had a good lunch in an elegant dining car. They played light classical music throughout the journey, unfortunately neglecting to change the tape (Chopin's *Minute Waltz* seemed to last hours) and they showed a film,

Steve Martin in *Father of the Bride*, which has been shown on every airplane I have flown for the past two years, this time in Spanish but no funnier.

It was more rewarding to look out of the window. Spain with all its many faces streamed by. Dried river beds, vast sweeps of rock and scrub, ruined houses, a goatherd with his goats, a man riding a horse. Night came down. We clattered on. Every few miles a lonely light shone. Then, at last, we saw the glow of the Costa del Sol and sturdily arrived in Malaga station. It had been 14 hours and 23 stops, and we were on time to the minute.

● Eurostar (0345 881831): Waterloo-Paris, 1st class single £117.50, 2nd class £77.50. Paris-Barcelona (via Montpellier), 1st class single £94.50, Barcelona-Malaga (2nd class only available), single £43. Eurostar's sister company, SNCF (0990 300003), can book tickets all the way from London to Malaga from £262.20 Standard class.

● Hotel Elysées Maubourg, Paris (00 33 1 45 56 10 78): double room £80 a night. Avenida Palace Hotel, Barcelona (00 34 3 301 96 00): suite £50 a night.

Celestial music in holy places

When King Louis IX built Sainte-Chapelle in 1248 he did not have its use as a public concert hall in mind. Indeed, he found the lower orders so repulsive that he created a church in the basement of Sainte-Chapelle so that the servants would not worship alongside royalty.

Now, however humble your origins, you can spend the evening in the grandest possible manner in this church on Ile de la Cité, being serenaded by some of France's best classical musicians. An increasing number of churches in Paris are opening their doors in the evening to classical music, and the experience is certainly superior to that of a dull municipal concert hall.

On a Sunday night recently, we went to hear *The Trumpets of Versailles* at Sainte-Chapelle, in the same building as the Palais de Justice and the Conciergerie.

Instead of queuing for entry during the day with Euro-coach parties desperate to gawp at Marie Antoinette's cell, evening visitors can wander through the marbled corridors of the palace. At night the church was free from dictatorial tourist guides — instead, there was a well-mannered rustle of anticipation and only French voices to be heard.

When the lights were lowered, with just a spotlight over the trumpeters and the organist before the altar, the church became as it was meant to be seen, not in electric glare but in half-darkness. Although the magnificent stained glass disappeared, the pillars painted red and gold, or blue with fleur-de-lis, suddenly glowed. The gold stars glinted on the blue arched ceiling — 50ft high and an architectural marvel in itself — and carved wooden apostles seemed to move on their pedestals.

The trumpeters played Handel, Telemann and Vivaldi, the organist a Bach prelude and fugue, while the audience was lulled into a swoon by the atmosphere and the music. Louis IX was extremely religious and created Sainte-Chapelle to house the Crown of Thorns and other relics that he acquired from the

Emperor of Constantinople, at a price said to be three times the cost of the actual building work. In medieval times the church was known as "a gateway to heaven". It is also a gateway to some of the city's best classical concerts several times a week.

The economics make sense, too — why pay Fr40 to be pushed through Sainte-Chapelle with a bunch of tourists when, for Fr90 or Fr150, you can luxuriate in the same surroundings for a two-hour concert?

The church concerts are advertised in the *Pariscope* listings magazine, published every Wednesday. So long as you turn up half an hour beforehand, most tickets can be bought at the door.

In an average week there might be Russian Orthodox songs from a St Petersburg ensemble at Sainte-Chapelle; Bach, Corelli and Handel played on flute and organ at the *Eglise des Billettes*; a cello soloist at *Eglise St Julien le Pauvre*; the Lyons choir at *St-Louis en l'île*; plus Purcell and Scarlatti played at the American church.

The decision as to which concert to attend depends on both the architectural and the musical desires of the party. Concerts at the Madeleine may lack the intimacy of, say, Sainte-Chapelle, but they certainly make up for it in grandeur, tending more to orchestral than chamber music.

The cavernous inside at the Madeleine is particularly lavish with marble and gilt, and the musicians play before Charles Marochetti's *Mary Magdalene Ascending to Heaven* behind the high altar and candlesticks. St-Germain-des-Près, the city's oldest church, also has regular concerts and some free organ recitals. The church is an extraordinary mish-mash of 6th-century Gothic and Romanesque architecture, and there are those who swear that the low lighting and soft music do much to improve it.

KATE MUIR

● The bookshop chain FNAC and the Virgin Megastore under the Louvre sell tickets for church concerts; otherwise call the *Pariscope* listing.

African exclusives

VIEWING GAME on foot, horseback, camel, elephant or canoe is offered by Africa Exclusive (01604 28979) in its 1997 "Africa Unpackaged" programme. Jill Cronshaw writes. It is the only holiday brochure without prices, though there is a subtle hint that an average tailor-made inclusive holiday will cost about £3,000. It is, however, a mine of information on the history, climate and wildlife of seven East and southern African countries.

The tours are aimed at African connoisseurs, as they cross borders, follow wildlife corridors and head for un-beaten tracks that the minibus brigade can never reach, such as Zimbabwe's remote Chuzarira National Park.

TRAVEL TIPS

Zambia's Luangwa Valley, haunt of the normally retiring leopard, or a five-day Kenya camel safari with Masai trackers.

Savoy walks

NEW walks from Italian specialist Footsteps Holidays (0171-917 2966) explore lesser known countryside in Emilia Romagna and Savoy. "Discovering the Colli Piacentini" follows in the footsteps of pilgrims and merchants from the plains of Piacenza into the Apennines, through pretty villages such as Bobbio or Marsaglia.

Another walk in the Gran Paradiso National Park, once the hunting reserve of the House of Savoy, offers the chance of spotting the rare ibex chamois and golden eagles. The Floral

Trail through the mountains and medieval hamlets of the Marches is a spectacular spring and summer walk with 25 species of orchid and other wild flowers carpeting the meadows and woods.

The guided walks cost £745 for a week's accommodation, lunches, dinner with wine and luggage transport, but not flights.

Moscow gala

SNOW is just about guaranteed on the Cox & Kings (0171-973 5000) four-night break in Moscow, departing December 29 and returning on January 2, with B&B accommodation at the five-star Kempinski Hotel. On New Year's Eve there will be a visit to the Bolshoi to see a production of *The Nutcracker*, followed by a

gala dinner. The price of £995 also includes a Moscow tour, visits to the Tretykov Gallery and the Pushkin Museum, and a full-day tour of Zagorsk.

To Timbuktu

ERITREA and Timbuktu are new destinations for adventure holiday specialists Explore Worldwide (01252 319448). After three years in Ethiopia, the company has expanded into Eritrea. It says conditions are relaxed and safe, the roads poor but passable, accommodation of two-star standard and the scenery fertile and unexplored. Its Horn of Africa tour with nine nights in Ethiopia and five in Eritrea costs £1,695 including flights and B&B. The highlight is the 2,300m escarpment from Asmara, the capital, down to the port of Massawa.

Timbuktu, a legendary stop on the trans-Saharan caravan route, is included on an 18-day Mali tour, costing from £1,635.

Ski Turkey

SKIING holidays in Turkey from Dolunay Holidays (01452 501978) cost from £589 for flights, ski pass and full-board accommodation in Uludag, suitable for beginner or intermediate skiers. It is also linked by cable car to the silk route city of Bursa, a treasure trove of Ottoman monuments, markets and Byzantine baths.

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As the beauty of the American landscape unfolds outside the window of our private train, the majestic mesas of the South West, the Valley of the Rio Grande, Louisiana's bayou country and the foothills of the Appalachians, we will enjoy delicious meals and superb service in the comfort of vintage carriages as we cross the great land.

The American Orient Express comprises twelve beautifully restored cars from the elegant streamliner period of the 1940's and 50's. Mahogany, polished brass, etched glass and original oil paintings adorn the interiors, whilst the exterior is painted in classic blue and gold.



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The sleeping cars with accommodation for up to 112 passengers are comfortable and well designed, offering a choice of two berth or two bedded compartments with writing table, built-in wash basin and toilet. In addition there is a shower compartment at the end of each sleeping car. For those who prefer private facilities there are presidential suites with twin bedded compartments and private shower and toilet.

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS

For information on the Great Trans-Continental Journey and other American Orient Express trips in the USA and Canada, please complete the coupon or telephone 0171-409 0376 (7 days a week during office hours)

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